



Hogwood Farm, Finchampstead, Berkshire Phase 2, Parcel 7

Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design



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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CALA Homes to conduct an archaeological excavation on Parcel 7 at the Finchwood Park development, Hogwood Farm, Finchampstead, Berkshire, RG40 4QY. The Finchwood Park development is a sizeable development covering 109 hectares centred on NGR 477135 164283 and has been divided into a series of Parcels for planning purposes, this report pertains to Phase 7. The work was carried out as a planning permission condition.

Previous archaeological investigations include a desk-based assessment, geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation. Following consultation with the Principal Archaeologist at Berkshire Archaeology a 1.69 hectare excavation area within Development Phase 7, centred on NGR 477036 164298, was agreed, with the principal aims of the investigation being to define the extent of Romano-British activity within the area.

The earliest dated artefact recovered during the excavation was a flint blade which may date to the Upper Palaeolithic or Mesolithic. Two main phases of activity were recorded during the excavation with ditches, gullies and pits dating from the Romano-British period dominating the northern third of the excavation area. The southern two thirds contained a possible enclosure with industrial activity from the medieval period, predominantly the 12th to 14th century, with evidence for a hearth base, a dump of pottery which may be kiln waste, slag and a compacted surface. Further evidence for possible industrial activity comes from four very shallow, circular pits which had very charcoal rich fills; these pits are anomalous with medieval charcoal production pits, although only one pit contained any datable artefacts. Other features dating to the medieval period include post-holes, pits and gullies. A very large ditch bisected the site, this feature cut all the linears that it intersected with, and is tentatively dated to the post-medieval period.

The excavation has potential to further understanding on industrial activity in the area, particularly the medieval pottery and tile production activities, along with the charcoal production industry.

Once all the archaeological investigations are completed an updated project design encompassing all the archaeological results will be produced, with these results incorporated in any recommendations for publication.

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Hogwood Farm - Development Parcel 7

Finchampstead, Berkshire

Post-excavation Assessment

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CALA Homes, to undertake archaeological mitigation works comprising an excavation covering 1.64 ha centred on NGR 477036 164298, at Hogwood Farm, Sheerlands Road, Finchampstead, Berkshire, RG40 4QY (**Fig. 1**).
- 1.1.1 The work was carried out as a condition of planning permission, granted by Wokingham Borough Council (O/214/2179). The development project is substantial in scale and is broken down into several development “Parcels” for planning purposes. The overall development area comprises approximately 109 ha. The overall development area is centred on NGR 477135 164283 (SU 77135 64283).
- 1.1.2 The planning permission comprises two parts:
- Part 1 – outline permission (reserving matters of (a) access; (b) appearance; (c) landscaping; (d) layout; and (e) scale) for:
 - demolition of all existing buildings on site;
 - up to 1,500 new dwellings (Use Class C3);
 - up to 12,000 sqm of employment floor space (Use Class B2);
 - a Neighbourhood Centre with up to 1,900 sqm of non- residential floor space (Use Classes A1/A2/A3/A4/A5 and D1);
 - a new primary school; new sports pitches and associated pavilion building;
 - highways infrastructure including an extension to the Nine Mile Ride and a new link from the Nine Mile Ride Extension South to the Hogwood Lane Industrial Estate;
 - associated landscaping, public realm and open/green space (including children's play areas); and
 - sustainable urban drainage systems.
 - Part 2 – full permission for: 29.70 ha of Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG).
- 1.1.3 Legal & General Homes have implemented the planning permission having secured reserved matters consent for Phase 1 and NMRE (**Fig. 1**). The following condition was applied to the outline planning permission in relation to archaeology.

61. No Reserved Matters applications for any sub phases of development shall be submitted until a programme of archaeological investigation for that sub phase has been implemented in accordance with a scheme that has first been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The results of that archaeological work shall be submitted with and used to inform the reserved matters application for that phase, and shall provide for the in-situ preservation of any archaeological remains of national or regional importance should they occur on the site, and the archaeological investigation, recording and analysis of remains of lesser importance. Development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that any archaeological remains within the site are adequately investigated and recorded or preserved in situ in the interest of protecting the archaeological heritage of the borough in accordance with the NPPF, Core Strategy Policy CP3, and Policy TB25 of the Managing Development Delivery Document.

- 1.1.4 A reserved matters application to which this report is related will be submitted. It is anticipated that the following condition (or similar) will be applied to the reserved matters permission.

No development shall take place within the area of archaeological interest until the applicant or their agents or successors in title have secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological mitigation in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The mitigation strategy will provide for:

- A programme of site investigation and recording*
- A programme of post investigation assessment, analysis, publication, dissemination and archiving. This part of the condition shall not be discharged until these elements of the programme have been fulfilled in accordance with the programme set out in the WSI.*

Reason:

To ensure that any archaeological remains within the site are adequately investigated and recorded or preserved in situ in the interest of protecting the archaeological heritage of the borough.

- 1.1.5 The excavation was the final stage in a programme of archaeological works, which had included a Heritage Assessment (Wessex Archaeology 2018a), geophysical survey (Wessex Archaeology 2018b) which comprised a detailed gradiometer survey, covering as much of the site as practicable, and an archaeological evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2019).
- 1.1.6 Archaeological evaluation of Parcel 7 was successful in locating a number of features. These features mainly relate to the Romano-British and post-medieval periods, with some evidence for possible Late Iron Age and medieval activity. This is indicative of nearby Romano-British activity, further evidence of which has been found in Parcels 4 and 5 to the west. The charred plant remains assemblage from undated pit 4324 is indicative of the complementary role of wild plant resource exploitation and agricultural activities, probably in the post-Romano-British period, due to the tentative identification of naked free-threshing wheat. Large quantities of wood charcoal were also present in a number of samples, indicating some burning activities, which may possibly be linked to charcoal production.



- 1.1.7 The excavation was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI), which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed, for both the fieldwork and the post-excavation work (Wessex Archaeology 2020). Principal Archaeologist approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing. The excavation was undertaken 7 June to 23 July 2021.

1.2 Scope of the report

- 1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the provisional results of the excavation, and the preceding evaluation, and to assess the potential of the results to address the research aims outlined in the WSI. Where appropriate, it includes recommendations for a programme of further analysis, outlining the resources needed to achieve the aims (including the revised research aims arising from this assessment), leading to dissemination of the archaeological results via publication and the curation of the archive.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The excavation area is located on a very gently sloping from the north-west to the south-east parcel of land, bounded on the northern and eastern sides by a hedgerow and pasture on the southern and western sides.
- 1.3.2 The excavation area is located within the central portion of the Hogwood Farm development (**Fig. 1**). This large development is situated 2.5 km north-west of Finchampstead, 6 km south-west of Wokingham, and 10 km south-east of Reading, in the county of Berkshire.
- 1.3.3 Existing ground levels are between 58.5 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the north-west and 57.5 m aOD in the south-west of the excavation area.
- 1.3.4 The underlying geology is mapped as London Clay Formation with clay silt and sand and no superficial deposits recorded (British Geological Survey 2021).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was assessed in a prior desk-based assessment (Royal HaskoningDHV 2014) but, has been augmented by additional information as further avenues of investigation have been identified. This earlier assessment considered the recorded historic environment resource within a 2 km study area of the proposed development. The following summary of this is not exhaustive, but details those records considered relevant to this assessment. Relevant entry numbers from the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) are included with additional sources of information referenced as appropriate.

2.2 Previous investigations related to the development

Previous investigations in the vicinity of the larger development site

- 2.2.1 The present site once formed part of a larger area that was considered for development. The main focus of this was to the north, and construction has been ongoing with various areas already having been investigated. Investigations have consisted of various desk-based assessments and evaluations with some mitigation comprising excavation also having been undertaken. It is noted that for the latter reports remain unavailable at present. The following aims to identify and draw on the main results of this earlier work but, is not considered to be exhaustive.

Table 1 Summary of previous investigations (Wessex Archaeology 2019)

HER reference	Work type	Description
	Desk-based assessment	Covers present wider development site and has study area extending to 2 km (Royal Haskoning DHV 2014)
	Desk-based assessment	Covers areas adjacent (north and south) to the present wider development site. Indicates cropmarks of possible interest within the present development site (MOLA 2014, fig 5)
	Desk-based assessment	Covers areas adjacent (north and south) to the present wider development site (AMEC 2013)
	Geophysical survey	Includes coverage of the northern part of the present wider development site. Magnetic susceptibility survey identifying areas for further detailed magnetometer survey (Stratascan 2008)
	Heritage constraints	Prepared to support current development (Wessex Archaeology 2018b)
ERM1759	Geophysical survey	Covers areas adjacent (north and south) to the present wider development site. Indicates possible archaeological features in the area surrounding West Court (MOLA 2015)
EWK82	Evaluation	Roman occupation (?settlement), single phase end of 1st century AD to early 2nd century (Pine 1998)
ERM1881	Evaluation	Single undated ditch (MOLA 2016a)
ERM1882	Evaluation	Several ditches, three of which were post-medieval. Also, three pits, one contained much slag including furnace bottoms. Iron Age (MOLA 2016b)
ERM1960	Strip map and sample	No significant deposits identified (MOLA 2016c)
ERM2140	Evaluation	Two ditches, one of which was post-medieval (MOLA 2016d)
	Evaluation	Bronze Age gully and pits, medieval ditch, ?furnace (MOLA 2016e)
ERM1873	Evaluation	Ditches and one pit containing evidence of burning, no dating evidence (MOLA 2016f)
ERM1874	Evaluation	One undateable gully (MOLA 2016g)
ERM1876	Evaluation	Ditches, one of which contained a single post-medieval sherd of pottery (MOLA 2016h)
ERM1888	Evaluation	Mostly undated ditches representing several phases of field division. Two ditch termini could have contained late Bronze Age/early Iron Age material, possibly part of a ring ditch. Also, medieval pits (MOLA 2016i)
ERM2024	Evaluation	No significant deposits identified (MOLA2017)

Previous investigations within the larger development site

- 2.2.2 A detailed gradiometer survey was carried out across the wider development area in June 2018 (Wessex Archaeology 2018b). It was successful in detecting anomalies thought to be

archaeological in origin within the overall area. Three possible linear features and pits were identified within Parcel 7 (**Fig. 1**) which were identified as ditches during the evaluation.

- 2.2.3 The archaeological evaluation, undertaken by Wessex Archaeology in 2018 (Wessex Archaeology 2019) covered the entire development area. Archaeological features were identified within several of the trenches excavated within Parcel 7, with the majority of archaeology concentrated within the north-western extent of the area, within the proposed area of mitigation (Trenches 35, 43 and 169; **Fig. 1**).
- 2.2.4 Features largely comprised boundary ditches, though a number of pits, a posthole and a spread of medieval material were also identified. The pits and ditches located within the proposed mitigation area have tentatively been dated to the Romano-British and post-medieval periods. Pottery dating from the Iron Age to post-medieval periods was found across Parcel 7. Those ditches believed to be of Romano-British origin are postulated to represent the presence of a coherent field system dating to the period.
- 2.2.5 The evaluation identified similar features in Parcels 2 and 3, immediately to the west of Parcel 7 and a single undated pit was found in Parcel 8, immediately to the north. Further boundary ditches and possible postholes were located within Parcel 6, to the south of Parcel 7 (Wessex Archaeology 2019).

2.3 Archaeological and historical context

Designated sites

- 2.3.1 Six scheduled monuments are located within 1.5 km of the development site. The London to Silchester Roman road passes through the southern part of the larger development site (approximately 700m to the south of Parcel 7) on an east west alignment (NHLE no. 1016332). Sections of the road are scheduled, with the nearest being 500 m east of the larger development site where a series of rectangular buildings have been identified as cropmarks (NHLE no. 1006968). Approximately 1.4 km east of the wider development site is an extant Bronze Age Bell barrow (NHLE no. 1013244), whilst 550 m north of the proposed mitigation works are the Arborfield Infirmary Stables, which were built in 1911–12 and formed part of the Army Remount Service Depot (NHLE no. 1006949). To the north of the stables is a medieval moated site at Moat House in Arborfield garrison (NHLE no. 1009886), which survives as a depression with graded banks to a height of 1 m. The medieval Church Farm is located 2 km north-east of the wider development site (NHLE no. 1013181).
- 2.3.2 There are 3 Grade I, 3 Grade II*, and 55 Grade II listed buildings within 1.5 km of the development. The Grade II listed Hogwood Farm (NHLE no. 1118094), dating to the 17th century with 20th century additions, lies within the larger development site (c. 200 m to the east of Parcel 7). The remaining listed buildings located within the vicinity of the development site chiefly comprise post-medieval cottages and farm buildings.
- 2.3.3 Two registered parks and gardens are located within proximity to the overall development. Farley Hall (Grade II) is located approximately 1.5 km west of Parcel 7 (NHLE no. 1000526) and Warbrook House (Grade II*) is located 2 km south of the development site (NHLE no. 1000249).

Non-designated sites

- 2.3.4 Evidence for early prehistoric activity within the vicinity of the development is limited to findspots including a hand axe 1.5 km east of the development site and a palaeolith 800 m to the south. However, two multi-period find spots covering the Palaeolithic through to

medieval periods are recorded to the south-west and on the northern boundary of the wider development site.

- 2.3.5 Bronze Age funerary activity is known within the area. Two barrows surviving as earthworks 1.4 km to the east of the site and a cemetery recorded 1.8 km to the north highlight the significance the wider landscape held during the period. Along one boundary of the development site (just to the north of a Roman road, see below) two Bronze Age burial urns were suggested to indicate the presence of a cemetery (MOLA 2014, 11). There are also several Bronze Age find spots within the wider area, including a palstave, dagger, and pottery.
- 2.3.6 Evidence for Iron Age settlement, metal-working, and cultivation is also present within the study area. It has been suggested that these sites, such as at Hogwood Shaw (immediately north of the current site), Whitehall Brick and Tile Works, Poperinghe Barracks, and Rooks Nest Farm, continued in use intermittently through the Romano-British period. Cropmarks along the scheduled Roman road (**Fig. 1**) also indicate the location of a possible villa in the southern portion of the site. The cropmarks have been associated with an antiquarian report of quantities of Roman pottery and tile (MOLA 2014, 13). Two evaluations to the north of the wider development site (ERM1888 and 1892) have evidence of Iron Age activity, one (EMR 1892) including iron working in the form of furnace bottoms.
- 2.3.7 There is limited evidence for Saxon activity in proximity to the development. The villages of Arborfield Cross and Finchampstead both have Saxon origins and former field boundaries identified in the surrounding area are also thought to be Saxon in date.
- 2.3.8 During the medieval and post-medieval period, the site formed part of the Parish of Finchampstead and it is likely that during these periods the site comprised agricultural land. Indeed, an evaluation to the north of the wider development site (ERM1888) identified ditches of medieval date and features pertaining to these periods identified during the earlier evaluation of the development site are believed to represent such agricultural activity (Wessex Archaeology 2019).
- 2.3.9 Activity is also known to have occurred within the site dating to the early 20th century, as indicated by the presence of a World War II pill box within the northern extent of the development. Arborford Garrison is also positioned to the north. Evidence of clay pits associated with a brickworks (possibly Whitehall Brick and Tile Works), known to have been operating in the area in the 1930s and 40s, are also present within the vicinity of the development (Pine 1998).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

- 3.1.1 The general aims of the excavation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020) and in compliance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (CIfA 2014a), were to:
- examine the archaeological resource within a given area or site within a framework of defined research objectives;
 - seek a better understanding of the resource;
 - compile a lasting record of the resource; and

- analyse and interpret the results of the excavation and disseminate them.

3.2 Research objectives

3.2.1 Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site and the regional research framework (Hey and Hind 2014), the research objectives of the excavation defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020) were to:

- Define the extent, nature and date of Roman occupation/settlement;
- Define the extent, nature, date and where possible the relationship and function of the features present within the excavation area, especially in the vicinity of Trenches 35, 43 and 169.

3.2.2 With reference to the wider research agenda (Hey and Hind 2014; 179–81), this area has potential to inform us about Roman landscapes and land use, and possible characterisation of settlement, *12.3.3 Attempts should be made to identify any changes in farming methods from field, farm and valley environments*. Here the emphasis would be on the “farm” environment and especially the form of any buildings, artefact and environmental assemblages that may contribute to this topic.

3.2.3 Small-scale iron production is known across the Solent Thames region (Hey and Hind 2014, 183). *12.11.6 Characterisation, including chemical analysis, and quantification of iron slag assemblages to ensure correct identification of both ironmaking and iron-working residues*. Should the slag recovered from the evaluation relate to the Roman period this topic will be relevant.

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014a). The post-excavation assessment and reporting followed advice issued by the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO 2015). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

4.2.1 The excavation area was set out using a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), in the same position as that proposed in the WSI (**Fig.1**). The topsoil/overburden was removed in level spits using a 360° tracked excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded in level spits until the archaeological horizon or the natural geology was exposed.

4.2.2 Where necessary, the surfaces of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the excavation. A sample of natural features, such as tree-throw holes, was also investigated.

4.2.3 Spoil derived from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological features was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. A metal detector was also used. Artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were

retained, although those from features of modern date (19th century or later) were recorded on site and not retained.

Recording

- 4.2.4 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete record of excavated features and deposits was made, including plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections) and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid.
- 4.2.5 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSTN15 and OSGM15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.
- 4.2.6 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 16 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.
- 4.2.7 PA photogrammetry survey was carried out on dump of pottery within ditch 70295 using a Pentax K50 with a Pentax-DA L 18-55mm AL WR lens and a Leica GNSS GS07. The feature was photographed using manual settings suitable for the light conditions present on site; images collected are 4928x3264 pixels. The targets for georeferencing were surveyed with Leica GPS GS 07 with an average 3D CQ below 50 mm. The coordinate system used is OSGB36 (15). The average ground sample distance of the photos 0.349 mm/pix.
- 4.2.8 The captured photographs were processed in Agisoft Metashape to produce a 3D model. This was then scaled and positioned using a subset of the survey data collected. The remaining survey data was used as a check of model accuracy. The resulting 3D model is accurate to 10.68 mm. True model accuracy likely exceeds this, however, checks are limited by the accuracy of the survey instrument used (50 mm).

4.3 Finds and environmental strategies

General

- 4.3.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of finds and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b), *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011) and ClfA's *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting* (Type 2: Appraisal).

4.4 Monitoring

- 4.4.1 The Principal Archaeologist for Berkshire Archaeology monitored the works on behalf of the LPA. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with the client and the Principal Archaeologist for Berkshire Archaeology.

5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

Summary of archaeological features and deposits

- 5.1.1 The excavation recorded a total of 35 ditches, 7 gullies, 28 pits, 12 post-holes and a hearth base, these date from the late Iron Age through to the post-medieval periods. Features from the late Iron Age and Romano-British periods were predominant in the northern third of the Site, the southern two thirds of the Site contained a series of intercutting medieval and post-medieval features with a shallow spread of medieval debris in the south-eastern quadrant.

Methods of stratigraphic assessment and quantity of data

- 5.1.2 All handwritten and drawn records from the excavation have been collated, checked for consistency and stratigraphic relationships. Key data has been transcribed into a database, which can be updated during any further analysis. Preliminary phasing of archaeological features and deposits was principally undertaken using stratigraphic relationships and the spot dating from artefacts, particularly pottery.

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

- 5.2.1 The soil sequence in Area 7 comprised a grass and light scrub covered dark grey silty clay with rare gravels 0.27 m thick, this covered a thin subsoil 0.02 m thick which diffused into the mid reddish-brown clay natural. Prior to the commencement of the development at Hogwood Farm the area had been subjected to agricultural use and ploughing.
- 5.2.2 Within the natural were two large areas of fine grey silty clay, initially the Site was stripped to reveal the extent of these two areas, which are believed to be the result of leaching of the natural by extended periods of waterlogging, at the end of the excavation both of these slots were mechanically excavated to reveal the remains of archaeological features masked by them. The depth of the gleying in both areas was relatively shallow, a maximum depth of 0.25 m was recorded, with the areas measuring 6.40 and 7 m across. Both areas were had diffuse, irregular edges on their sub-circular shapes.

5.3 Late Iron Age to Romano-British (100 BC – AD410)

- 5.3.1 The features dating to the late Iron Age and Romano-British periods were mainly recorded in the northern third of the Site. These features comprised 11 ditches, of which only two of which were substantial and clearly dating to the Romano-British period, the remaining ditches were shallow and are dated on, one shallow curvilinear gully and a cluster of pits.
- 5.3.2 The evaluation recorded a north-west to south-east aligned ditch (3506) in the northern part of the excavation area. As ditch 70287 this feature continued to the south of the evaluation trench with a total of 25 m length, this ditch measured 1.90 m wide, 0.85 m deep. The south-western edge of this ditch was very irregular and poorly defined along its length, the north-eastern edge of the ditch was much more clearly defined with a steep, straight edge (**Plate 1**). This ditch was clearly picked up by the geophysical survey.
- 5.3.3 Extending in a north-east – south-westerly direction from ditch 70278 was ditch 70030. This broad, shallow ditch measured 1.50 m wide, 0.30 m deep, and was cut by the larger ditch 70278 at its north-easterly end and disappeared into the area of gleying at its south-westerly end. Ditch 70079 has a similar profile and alignment to the south-west of the gleying and may be a continuation of this ditch.

- 5.3.4 Also disappearing and masked by the gleying were ditches 70130, 70203, and 70244. These ditches were generally poorly defined and shallow (**Plate 2**).
- 5.3.5 West of these was a short section of a NNW-SSE aligned 'U'-shaped ditch 70198 which measured 1.35 m wide, 0.78 m deep (**Plate 3**).
- 5.3.6 To the south of the area of gleying ditch 70203 was cut by a large post-medieval ditch 70285, this north-west – south-east aligned ditch possibly terminates on the south of the post-medieval ditch 70285 as slot 70179.
- 5.3.7 The remaining Romano-British ditches are situated to the south of ditch 70285; ditch 70287 aligned north-east to south-west. This ditch measured 0.80 m wide, 0.50 m deep with steep, straight sides and a flat base.
- 5.3.8 The only two gullies which could clearly be ascribed to the Romano-British period was a short section of north-east to south-east curvilinear gully 70288, which measured 5.23 m long, 0.47 m wide and 0.20 m deep, and was truncated at its south-eastern end by ditch 70030, and a parallel north-west to south-east aligned straight gully 70216. This gully had steep, convex sides and a flat base and measured 5.55 m long, 0.62 m wide and 0.20 m deep.
- 5.3.9 Within the centre of the excavation area was a cluster of fifteen pits (pits 70014, 70017, 70022, 70105, 70113, 70117, 70119, 70122, 70139, 70141, 70143, 70148, 70169, 70205, 70218) all of these pits appeared to be of a similar date with some intercutting between the pits (**Fig. 1**). The pits were generally subcircular to sub-oval in shape and measured between 0.24 m to 1.30 m wide, averaging 0.75 m wide, 0.05 m to 0.85 m deep, averaging 0.28 m depth. Not all of the pits contained datable artefacts, but their clustered location and the similarity of the pits implies a contemporary date, with seven of the pits containing pottery from the mid to late 1st century AD.
- 5.3.10 Of the pit cluster the most interesting pits were pit 70205 which was the largest of the pits in the cluster (**Plate 4**). This oval pit measured 1.79 m long, 1.29 m wide and 0.83 m deep and contained four distinctive fills, with the suggestion of periods of stabilisation before the pit was reutilised. Similarly pit 70117 was cut into the top of pit 70113, all the pottery was recovered from the later pit, but its location suggested a knowledge of the earlier pit (**Plate 5**).
- 5.3.11 The remaining pits were unremarkable with single, homogenised fills.

5.4 Medieval (1066 – 1500)

- 5.4.1 The medieval features from the site date from the 12th to the 14th century and comprises three parallel NNE – SSW aligned ditches and a slightly sinuous east to west aligned ditch. Discreet features dating to this period include three pits and a hearth base.
- 5.4.2 Ditch 70150 had moderate, straight sides and a flat base, this ditch had been recut by ditch 70153, which had similar sides but also had an ankle breaker gully along the base. The pottery retrieved from both ditches was of a similar date and both ditches had a similar fill profile suggesting that these ditches were contemporary. The ditches had been cut by a later (post-medieval or modern) land drain (**Plate 6**). This ditch was tentatively attributed to the Romano-British period by the evaluation report (slot 4343), based on the alignment, however the pottery recovered was securely dated to the medieval period. To the north these ditches cut a shallow 'U'-shaped gully 70230.

- 5.4.3 Directly south of ditch 70150 and on the same alignment was gully 70238. This shallow 'U'-shaped gully had moderate concave sides and a concave base. In the western end of the gully was a considerable dump of pottery (see section 6.2.16 **Plate 7** and **8**).
- 5.4.4 Rather more substantial was ditch 70292. Ditch 70292 measured 3.00 m wide, 0.92 m wide at the intersection with ditches 70286 and 70290, towards the east of this intersection though this ditch became narrower and shallower, measuring just 1.35 m wide, 0.28 m deep (**Plate 9**).
- 5.4.5 Ditch 70290 was a north-west to south-east aligned ditch had steep, straight sides and a concave base (**Plate 10**). This ditch cut medieval ditch 70291 and was cut by medieval ditch 70292. Ditch 70920 was also recorded in the evaluation as ditch 4311, the relationship slot excavated in the evaluation demonstrated that this ditch cut the shallow ditch recorded in the evaluation as 4315, a slot was excavated through this feature to the north as 70279, this slot echoed the findings of the evaluation that this NNW- SSE aligned linear was shallow and poorly defined, the evaluation interpreted this as a possible hedgerow.
- 5.4.6 With a similar shallow uneven, undulating profile was north-west – south-east aligned ditch (70286) which petered out at its south-eastern end. Ditch 70286 measured up to 2.45 m wide, but only 0.35 m deep and had irregular, undulating sides and an undulating base (**Plate 11**).
- 5.4.7 Together these features appear to form a rectangular enclosure, bounded by ditches on the north and south and possibly by hedge lines on the east and western sides, within this possible enclosure is the shallow, pottery filled gully and compacted spread of material.
- 5.4.8 Finally, two very shallow ditches (70094 and 70291), with a maximum depth of 0.16 m, were recorded in the southern part of the excavation area.
- 5.4.9 Of the discrete features the most interesting was a square hearth base (70268) filled with ceramic peg tiles laid on their edges (**Plate 12**). This feature measured 1.60 m long, 1.30 m wide, 0.15 m deep. No other signs of the related building were recorded. The hearth base cut circular pit 70248, which had measurable dimensions of 0.60 m diameter and was excavated to a depth of 0.88 m, although the base was not reached. This pit had a single homogenised fill (**Plate 13**).
- 5.4.10 The only remaining discrete features dating to the medieval period was a small, poorly defined pit and two small tree-throw holes which contained small quantities of medieval pottery. Pit 70224 was isolated towards the eastern part of the site, this subcircular pit measured 0.94 m long, 0.92 m wide and 0.11 m deep and had shallow, concave sides and an undulating/irregular base. The artefacts recovered from this pit and the tree-throw holes are possibly residual.
- 5.4.11 The evaluation identified a compacted spread of medieval material in the southern part of trench 43. The excavation demonstrated that this was a shallow, irregular spread of material and only medieval artefacts were retrieved from it, although this spread was initially interpreted as being post-medieval during the evaluation. A shallow, 'Y'-shaped gully was identified beneath the spread (**Plate 14**), no dating material was retrieved from the gully.
- 5.5 Post-medieval (1500 – 1800)**
- 5.5.1 The largest feature on the Site was ditch 70285. This north-east to south-west aligned ditch measured 4.90 m wide, 1.66 m deep and contained five fills (**Plate 15**). Due to the size of this ditch, and that it clearly cut the other features in plan only one slot was machine

excavated across it, a small number of relationship slots between this feature and the ditches which intersected with it were also excavated. However, due to this finds retrieval from this ditch was limited. Two slots were partially excavated across this ditch during the evaluation, and the results from the evaluation suggested a post-medieval date for this ditch, although the excavation of this feature was also limited, it clearly cut all the other linear features and therefore a post-medieval date is assumed.

- 5.5.2 Land drains are present across the Site, these appear to have required repairs in places, and features associated with these include ditch 70036 and pit 70271.
- 5.5.3 The south-eastern corner of the excavation area flooded, features identified within this part of the area were only tentatively.

5.6 Uncertain date

- 5.6.1 Within the excavation area a number of features remained undated; five of the ten ditches did not contain any artefacts, the remaining four ditches contained small quantities of ceramic building material. Ditch 70296 is undated, one slot in this ditch contained artefacts, however, these are likely to be intrusive from the preceding evaluation and therefore cannot be regarded as secure. However, this ditch was cut by undated, charcoal rich pit 70027/70058, and this stratigraphic relationship implies a degree of antiquity.
- 5.6.2 Similarly, a 'U'-shaped group of shallow ditches in the centre of the excavation area had a stratigraphic relationship with ditch 70286. These ditches were all broad, (up to 1.80 m wide) and shallow (maximum 0.26 m deep) with uncertain stratigraphic relationships between them (**Plates 16 and 17**). Artefacts retrieved from within the fills of these features may be residual.
- 5.6.3 The remaining undated linear features include two shallow features, possible natural feature 70038 and 70081. Both these features were marked by their shallow undulating nature, and lack of artefacts.
- 5.6.4 Three charcoal rich pits were excavated, two were very shallow (< 0.01 m depth), the remaining pit, pit 70027/70058 was slightly deeper (0.21 m depth) (**Plates 18 and 19**). These three pits averaged 1.78 m diameter. Pit 4324 appeared to have been cut by 70279 and contained a single sherd of medieval pottery. Analogous pits have been identified in Development Parcels 1 and 2/3.
- 5.6.5 Just to the south of the Roman-British pit cluster lay two small, undated pits. These two pits (70014 and 70017) were sub-oval and sub-circular in shape with moderate, concave sides and concave bases (**Plate 20**).

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 The current phase of fieldwork has yielded a finds assemblage of moderate size, ranging in date from prehistoric to post-medieval/modern and including chronological foci in the 1st century AD and the medieval period. It includes significant groups of pottery and ceramic building material; there is a hint of possible evidence for pottery production in the medieval period, and positive evidence for iron smelting, probably also medieval.
- 6.1.2 The assemblage augments and to a large extent replicates finds already recovered from the wider Hogwood Farm project; this report focuses on the finds from the mitigation works

of Parcel 7, with the addition of finds from earlier evaluation trenches within this excavation area, already reported on as part of the evaluation phase (Wessex Archaeology 2019, trenches 35, 43 and 169)

- 6.1.3 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context; totals by material type are given in Table 2.

Table 2 Finds totals by material type

Material Type	EVALUATION		MITIGATION	
	No. frags	Weight (g)	No. frags	Weight (g)
Pottery	236	2248	1756	26,281
LIA/Roman	193	1776	882	10051
Medieval	33	382	867	15996
Post-medieval	10	90	7	234
Ceramic Building Material	107	5093	348*	162,733
Fired Clay	28	246	168	4450
Stone	1	1081	1	536
Worked Flint	2	-	8	-
Burnt Flint	252	796	144	1475
Glass	-	-	1	160
Slag	35	5682	221	17,548
Metal				
Copper alloy	1	-	-	-
Iron	4	-	22	-
Other Metal	-	-	1	-
Animal Bone	153	296	154	811
Marine Shell	-	-	42	359

* note that three large context groups of CBM were quantified on site by weight only and then discarded

6.2 Pottery

- 6.2.1 The combined pottery assemblage amounts to 1992 sherds, weighing 28,529 g, and includes material of Late Iron Age/Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval date.
- 6.2.2 Condition is variable. Elements of the Late Iron Age/Romano-British assemblage, principally the handmade and softer-fired coarser wares (flint-tempered and grog-tempered) have suffered relatively high levels of surface and edge abrasion; surface slurries have been partially or totally removed and some sherds are friable and liable to further disintegration. Medieval and later wares are harder fired, but the assemblage is still fragmentary. Throughout the assemblage, conjoining sherds have been noted but the majority are on fresh breaks, with the exception of a large medieval group from 70295 where conjoins seem to be mainly on old breaks (this group is discussed in more detail below). Mean sherd weight overall is 14.3 g, which falls to 11.0 g for Late Iron Age/Romano-British and rises to 18.2 g for medieval/post-medieval.
- 6.2.3 The assemblage has been quantified (sherd count and weight) by ware type within each context. This has combined some known ware types (eg Silchester-type ware, Kingston-type ware) with broader, 'catch-all' types (eg grog-tempered wares, medieval sandy wares); there is no local type series, but some correlation is possible with regional types, for example for medieval and later wares from the London area. Estimated Vessel Equivalents (EVEs) have not been used at this stage but may more appropriately be recorded during

further analysis. Instead, the estimated number of vessels (ENV) has been calculated, counting conjoining and probable same-vessel sherd groups as 1. The relatively high number of conjoins and same-vessel groups can be gauged from the total ENV which is 1494.

- 6.2.4 The recording conducted at this stage accords with the 'basic record' advocated by national standards (Barclay *et al* 2016, section 2.4.5) to rapidly characterise and assemblage with a view to assessing its archaeological potential. Table 3 gives a breakdown of the assemblage by ware type.

Table 3 Pottery totals by ware type (ENV = Estimated Number of Vessels)

Ware type	No. sherds	Wt. (g)	ENV
LIA/Romano-British			
Coarse sandy ware	4	23	1
Flint-tempered ware	5	106	4
Greyware	413	3630	346
Grog and flint tempered ware	52	813	41
Grog-tempered ware	132	1581	86
Oxidised coarse sandy ware	4	56	4
Oxidised ware	3	9	3
Samian	1	16	1
Sandy ware	9	125	8
Silchester-type ware	252	3586	181
Whiteware	7	106	6
<i>Sub-total LIA/Romano-British</i>	<i>882</i>	<i>10,051</i>	<i>681</i>
Medieval			
Cheam-type ware	1	9	1
Kingston-type ware	56	810	53
Coarsewares (sandy/flint-gritted)	23	210	23
Miscellaneous glazed wares	2	22	2
Sandy wares (local ceramic tradition?)	780	14,911	723
Shelly ware	5	34	5
<i>Sub-total medieval</i>	<i>867</i>	<i>15,996</i>	<i>807</i>
Post-medieval			
Border ware	1	6	1
Redware	6	228	5
Overall Total	1756	26,281	1494

Late Iron Age/Romano-British

- 6.2.5 Roughly half of the assemblage (50% on sherd count) is made up of wares with a potential date range in the Late Iron Age/Romano-British period, although the actual date, for reasons that are discussed below, probably falls in the immediate post-Conquest period, the later 1st century AD. The assemblage is remarkably homogeneous and gives the impression of having been deposited over a relatively limited timespan.
- 6.2.6 The ware types represented (see Table 3) comprise a range of handmade wares of indigenous Late Iron Age origin (flint- and/or grog-tempered wares), together with some

wheelthrown grog-tempered wares of 'Belgic' type and 'Romanised' wheelthrown sandy wares, the majority of which are likely to be of at least relatively local manufacture. Continental imports are limited to one sherd of samian, although some of the whitewares may also be at least regional imports if not from the Continent.

- 6.2.7 Nearly all of the handmade flint-tempered wares have been classified as 'Silchester ware' (Fulford 1984, 135; Timby 2000, 239–40), and most of the vessel forms seen here are typical of the very limited repertoire of that tradition: jars of medium to large size with everted to beaded rims, with one lid. There is, however, some variety in the frequency and size of inclusions, and one jar in a well-sorted fabric variant is burnished, a technique not generally seen on Silchester ware vessels which are purely functional with little or no embellishment.
- 6.2.8 The grog-/flint-tempered wares are also all handmade and were also used for jars with everted or beaded rims. Most of these sherds came from ditch 70287 – a group of 39 sherds from at least three vessels but probably mostly from one beaded rim jar. The grog-tempered wares were used for similar jar forms in various sizes, but these wares also include at least four possible wheelthrown vessels, including a long-necked carinated jar/bowl (ditch 70287) and a fragmentary necked everted rim jar (ditch 70244)
- 6.2.9 These wares were found alongside wheelthrown greywares and (less frequently) oxidised wares. The greyware repertoire is slightly more varied: primarily jars of various forms (some with beaded rims, some with everted rims, some of which are cordoned), but also smaller beakers, bowls and dishes. No attempt has been made at this stage to attribute the greywares to source, and much of this group is insufficiently distinctive to do so. The Alice Holt production centre, however, is perhaps one of the most likely sources, and the greywares do include forms that are characteristic of that industry, such as an 'Atrebat' bowl (Lyne and Jefferies 1979, fig. 17, class 5). Some of the oxidised sandy wares could also have come from this source.
- 6.2.10 The single sherd of samian is from a form 27 cup, almost certainly South Gaulish. Whitewares include a mortarium flange (possibly from the Oxfordshire production centre), a flagon handle and two jar/beaker bases. Fine whiteware butt beakers, for example, were often imported.
- 6.2.11 Several medium to large-sized feature groups were recovered. The largest came from ditch 70287 (121 sherds), with others from pond 70250 (99 sherds), ditch 70198 (79 sherds) and ditch 70244 (74 sherds). Other contexts each produced less than 50 sherds.
- 6.2.12 In terms of date, this assemblage has a firm focus in the early Romano-British period. Although a significant proportion of the assemblage consists of ware types of Iron Age origin, their occurrence here alongside 'Romanised' wares confirms a post-Conquest date range although the start date may not have been long after the middle of the 1st century AD. All of the ware types present continued in use into the 2nd century and some even later, and this is supported by the presence of one greyware bowl with an incipient dropped flange (perhaps early 3rd century AD: see Lyne and Jefferies 1979, fig. 32, 5B.1). Other aspects suggest a more compressed date at least for the majority of the assemblage, somewhere in the later 1st century AD. This is based on the proportion of Silchester ware (30% of the total by sherd count); at Silchester itself, the ware type peaks (between 40–50%) c AD 40–50/60 and drop off quite sharply thereafter. The whiteware beakers, too, would be characteristic of the later 1st century AD.

Medieval

- 6.2.13 Roughly half of the assemblage (49% on sherd count) is of medieval date. The majority of this group is made up of coarse sandy wares, most of which contain rounded and subrounded quartz grains, often iron-stained to a red/brown/pink colour in a relatively pale-firing clay matrix. In this respect these wares show some similarity with the early products of the Surrey/Hampshire border whiteware industry (eg ESUR in the London type series). However, there appears to be more variation in colour and texture here than is seen in ESUR fabrics, and moreover the dating does not coincide. ESUR has a date range of c 1050–1150 in London (Vince and Jenner 1991), but the largest group here (663 sherds from one section of ditch 70295) several sherds from a slip-decorated jug and a jug handle with stamped ring-and-dot motifs possibly from the same vessel, none of which can be earlier than 13th century and probably mid–late 13th century. This dating is supported by the presence of two sherds of Kingston-type ware (KING) in the same context, and other contexts also contain a mixture of coarsewares and Kingston-type wares. This may, therefore, represent a local ceramic tradition. Apart from the slip-decorated jug in ditch 70295, diagnostic vessel forms seen here are almost exclusively jars, with one dish.
- 6.2.14 Kingston-type sherds derive from jars, bowls, jugs and one possible pipkin. Two of the jars have bifid rims typical of the 15th century. There is also one sherd of Cheam-type ware (14th-/15th-century). A small group of coarsewares comprise coarse sandy fabrics containing sparse flint inclusions; these are similar to the Kennet Valley ceramic tradition of west Berkshire but are more likely here to be of relatively local manufacture. A few miscellaneous glazed sandy wares are also of uncertain source. Shelly wares (five sherds recovered) can be paralleled in 12th–13th-century assemblages from the lower Thames valley, for example from Windsor (Mephram 2016).
- 6.2.15 Overall, the assemblage has a potential date range from 12th to 15th century but based on the evidence from the largest group (from ditch 70295) this date range can probably be compressed. Certainly there is nothing here which is necessarily earlier than 13th century, although the possibility that some of the assemblage could be earlier cannot at this stage be ruled out. The end date can certainly be extended to the 15th century on the basis of the Surrey whitewares, but the focus of activity appears to have been in the 13th century.
- 6.2.16 The group from ditch 70295 is of interest not just from its size but from the fact that some sherds show possible signs of firing faults in the form of surface spalling, which could be suggestive of pottery production waste, and this is particularly pertinent given the evidence from the ceramic building material (see below). However, no definite ‘wasters’ were identified, and all of the pottery found could have been functional. Nevertheless, significance of this deposit is enhanced when the evidence from a site recently excavated at Binfield is taken into account. The latter site, approximately 11 km to the north-east, recovered an assemblage of pottery, the majority of which (defined as ‘Binfield wares’) appears to be of a very similar character to the coarse sandy wares seen at Hogwood, and in which the evidence for ‘wasters’ was far more obvious – there were overfired and underfired sherds, warping, cracking and glazing faults (Anderson 2021). A large group of pottery was found packed into a shallow gully, in a deposit similar to that from ditch 70295, and a radiocarbon date of cal AD 1272 – 1304 was obtained from associated charcoal.

Post-medieval

- 6.2.17 Post-medieval wares are limited to seven sherds, all glazed earthenwares. Six are redwares and one a white-firing Border ware. The date range for these sherds is likely to be 16th or 17th century.

6.3 Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

- 6.3.1 Large quantities of CBM were recovered. A total of 162.733 kg was recorded, of which 142 kg from three contexts (hearth 70268 and two fills of medieval ditch 70279) was weighed and subsequently discarded on site without further quantification, although additional small samples were retained from these contexts. The remaining 27.128 kg of CBM comprises 481 fragments.
- 6.3.2 Two fragments from the evaluation were initially (but tentatively) identified as possibly Romano-British on grounds of fabric (soft-fired, powdery texture); these fragments are not diagnostic in terms of form although the thickness (20 mm) would support a Romano-British rather than a later date. To these can be added two fragments from ditch 70289 which are in a similar fabric and were associated with Romano-British pottery. However, other tile fragments that are clearly of later date are also in relatively soft, powdery fabrics, so the dating of smaller, less diagnostic fragments has been difficult, and the tendency has been to date later unless an earlier dating is suggested on other grounds (stratigraphy or other finds).
- 6.3.3 The remainder of the assemblage, then, is dated as medieval or later. The overwhelming majority of this consists of fragments of flat roof tile (the large quantities from hearth 70268 and ditch 70279, discarded on site, also fell within this category). This type is generally not susceptible to close dating, but the use of soft-fired fabrics and less careful clay preparation suggests that most tiles are of medieval date. Attachment was by paired circular peg holes on the upper edge. A small number of fragments are at least partially glazed (sometimes just carrying a few glaze splashes), and at least one of these fragments belongs to a curved tile, probably a ridge tile, although other ten curved fragments, presumably also from ridge tiles are unglazed. Interestingly, one of these unglazed curved fragments shows signs of mis-firing (overfired appearance with some firing cracks). Although this could still have been functional, there is a possibility that this could be a 'waster' from tile production. Against this background, the soft-fired (possibly underfired) fragments could also represent production waste. Similar underfired tile fragments found on the pottery kiln sites located on the Newbury Bypass route were interpreted as production waste (Loader 2000).
- 6.3.4 Very little CBM can be definitively dated as post-medieval, although the possibility remains that some of the flat roof tile could be of this date range. There are three brick fragments (of which two came from evaluation trenches) and one piece from a modern glazed wall tile.

6.4 Fired Clay

- 6.4.1 The fired clay (196 fragments recovered in total) largely consists of undiagnostic fragments in a variety of fabrics ranging from silty to coarsely sandy, but there is a sufficient number of more distinctive pieces to suggest that a significant proportion of this material may derive from portable objects rather than simply representing structural material from hearth/pit linings or upstanding structures. While some of the contexts which produced fired clay are dated as medieval on pottery grounds, the whole assemblage is considered to belong to the earlier period of activity on the site, ie the later 1st century AD.
- 6.4.2 The most diagnostic piece came from the terminal of ditch 70286; this exhibits one flattish surface with an oblique cylindrical perforation. It can be identified as part of a triangular object of a type which have traditionally been identified as loomweights although an alternative interpretation as perforated oven bricks has been advanced more recently (Poole 1995); the date range is Iron Age to Romano-British. These objects may have perforations through one, two or all three corners. Five other fragments which appear to show similar perforations came from ditches 70150, 70285 and 70287 and pit 70117. There

may also be other object types here. One fragment from pit 70105 appears to belong to a rectangular bar (35 x 31 mm in cross section, surviving length 50 mm), and other right-angled fragments from pits 70022, 70205 and 70117, ditches 70169, 70286 and 70287 and pond 70250 could belong either to 'bars' or 'plates'. The rectangular bars are similar to objects recorded as kiln furniture from Late Iron Age/early Romano-British pottery kilns (Swan 1984, plate 18) but, whatever their precise function, it seems that both bars and plates were used together in some kind of pyrotechnical activity.

6.5 Worked Flint

- 6.5.1 Eight pieces of flint were recovered. These comprise flakes and cores, with no tools or retouched pieces present. In the absence of any chronologically diagnostic features, this small group can only be broadly dated as Neolithic/bronze Age. A single blade was recovered, this may be Upper Palaeolithic or Mesolithic in date, although at a squeeze it may be Early Neolithic. This blade was recovered from a pit containing Romano-British pottery, however, flint from this date is incredibly rare in the Blackwater Valley, although the Mesolithic has been put into greater context by the finds from Eversley.

6.6 Slag

- 6.6.1 A total of 16.819 kg of material, from 45 contexts, comprises certain or probable metalworking debris. In addition, there is 694 g of natural iron-pan, 23 g of fuel ash slag and 12 g of undiagnostic material; the fuel ash slag is likely to derive from metalworking. A further 5.682 kg came from the evaluation.
- 6.6.2 The metalworking debris is all ironworking slag. Though some of it is undiagnostic and in a fragmentary and in some cases abraded condition, there is enough from the largest group (context 70225, with 3939 g) to suggest that most if not all the slag derives from smelting rather than smithing. Context 70225, the fill of a small irregular pit (70224), produced several pieces with clear evidence of a surface flow structure, indicative of tap slag deriving from a smelting furnace, while numerous other contexts produced fragments of tap slag. The remaining, generally undiagnostic material is relatively dense but moderately vesicular.
- 6.6.3 Except for context 70225 (see above), only spread 70281 in ditch 70279 (1240 g, along with 569 g of iron pan) produced more than 1 kg of slag and only seven contexts more than 500 g, and these small quantities are likely to be residual in most contexts. There is no evidence of *in situ* ironworking.
- 6.6.4 Pit 70224, which contained context 70225 that produced almost 25% of the slag recovered, has been assigned a medieval date, while compacted spread 70281 is early post-medieval. A further 7278 g of slag derived from medieval contexts, leaving only around 25% of the mitigation assemblage from Romano-British contexts. Nevertheless, a Romano-British date is considered perhaps most likely for the assemblage as a whole.

6.7 Metalwork

- 6.7.1 The metalwork includes one modern composite metal fitting (from layer 70282) and 20 iron objects. The iron objects are all heavily corroded, and this has hampered identification to some extent. Most of the iron consists of nails (at least 16 examples), and these derived from both Romano-British and medieval contexts. Fragments of a probable horseshoe were found in medieval ditch 70292.
- 6.7.2 Metal objects from the evaluation comprised a possible iron ploughshare (from a medieval ditch), possible knife fragments (from a post-medieval pit) and a copper alloy disc of uncertain function (undated context).



6.8 Animal Bone

- 6.8.1 The animal bone is quantified in Table 2; once conjoins and associated bone groups are taken into consideration the total of 154 fragments falls to 48 bones. The bones are fragmented and in poor condition, consequently few are identifiable to species. The assemblage was assessed by rapid scanning following current guidelines (Baker and Worley 2019).
- 6.8.2 A few fragments of bone were recovered from Romano-British ditches 70004, 70130 and 70179, and pit 70022 (total 7 bones). The identified elements comprise a few cattle teeth and a fragment of metacarpal, plus a horse tooth. In addition, a few cattle teeth, several burnt sheep/goat bones, including one from a lamb, and a piece of red deer antler, were recovered from ditch 70289 during the evaluation.
- 6.8.3 Bone was recovered from medieval ditches 70150 and 70260, gully 70238, pit 70242 and posthole 70220 (total 19 bones). A few fragments of tooth enamel from cattle and horse were identified. Bone was also recovered from ditches 70290 and 70294 during the evaluation. The identified elements include part of a cattle scapula, a fragment of sheep/goat tibia and two teeth, and a horse tooth.
- 6.8.4 Most of the identified elements came from medieval ditches 70088, 70192, 70254 and 70279 (total 11 identifiable bones). The largest concentration came from ditch 70279, which contained fragments of cattle skull, mandible and pelvis, as well as a sheep/goat tibia, pig femur and the shaft of a bird femur, most probably domestic fowl. The bones recovered from the other ditches comprise a butchered piece of cattle tibia, a sheep/goat humerus and two bones from the hindquarter of a small pony-sized equid. The equid bones, from ditch 70254, were found in articulation. During the evaluation, bone was recovered from pit 4322 and ditch 70285. The identified elements include several cattle bones, including two that had been processed for marrow, and a few sheep/goat bones.
- 6.8.5 In addition, a fragment of cattle tooth was recovered from tree-throw hole 70167.

6.9 Other Finds

- 6.9.1 Other finds include one fragment of post-medieval bottle glass from pit 70271 (from a free-blown green wine bottle dating to the mid-17th century), two pieces of stone (greensand quern fragment from evaluation trench 35, second possible quern fragment from medieval ditch 70279) and 42 oyster shells also from ditch 70279.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 This report presents an environmental assessment of nine bulk sediment samples taken from Romano-British, medieval and undated features. Results from a previous environmental assessment of samples taken during the evaluation (trenches 35, 43) have been incorporated into this report (Wessex Archaeology 2019). The samples break down into the following phases:

Table 4 Sample summary

Phase	No. of bulk samples	Volume (litres)	Feature types
<i>Excavation and Mitigation</i>			
Romano-British	4	65	Ditch, pits

Medieval	4	118	Gully, ditch, hearth, pit
Undated	1	32	Pit
<i>Evaluation</i>			
Late Iron Age/Romano-British	3	57	Ditches, pit
Medieval	2	47	Ditch, pit
Undated	2	80	Ditch
Totals	16	399	-

7.2 Aims and methods

- 7.2.1 The aim of this assessment is to determine the nature and significance of the environmental remains preserved at the site, and their potential to address project aims. This assessment has been undertaken in accordance with Historic England guidelines (Campbell *et al.* 2011).
- 7.2.2 The size of the bulk sediment samples varied between 8 and 43 litres, with an average volume of approximately 25 litres. Some of the samples were pre-soaked in a solution of water and hydrogen peroxide to help break up the clayey sediment. The samples were processed by standard flotation methods on a Siraf-type flotation tank; the flot retained on a 0.25 mm mesh, whilst residues were fractionated into 4 mm and 1 mm fractions. The coarse residue fractions (>4 mm) were sorted by eye and discarded. The flots and fine residue fractions were examined using a stereomicroscope at up to x40 magnification.
- 7.2.3 Different potential indicators of bioturbation were noted, including the percentage of modern roots and abundance of modern seeds, alongside the presence of mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia (eg, *Cenococcum geophilum*), burrowing snails (eg, *Cecilioides acicula*), earthworm eggs and modern insects.
- 7.2.4 Plant remains were identified through comparison with modern reference material held by Wessex Archaeology and relevant literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006). Nomenclature follows Stace (1997) for wild taxa and Zohary *et al.* (2012) for cereals and other cultivated crops (using traditional names). Selected charcoal fragments were identified from the excavation and mitigation samples. Charcoal identifications were undertaken through examination of the transverse (TS), tangential longitudinal (TLS) and radial longitudinal (RLS) sections at up to x400 magnification using a Kyowa ME-LUX2 microscope. Charcoal identifications were assisted by the descriptions of Gale and Cutler (2000), Hather (2000) and Schweingruber (1990), together with modern reference material held by Wessex Archaeology. Remains within flots and residues were recorded semi-quantitatively on an abundance scale: C = <5 ('Trace'), B = 5-10 ('Rare'), A = 10-30 ('Occasional'), A* = 30-100 ('Common'), A** = 100-500 ('Abundant'), A*** = >500 ('Very abundant/Exceptional').

7.3 Results

- 7.3.1 The results are presented in Appendix 1, Table 5. The samples vary widely in composition, with environmental evidence consisting of charred plant remains and wood charcoal. There are small quantities of modern roots and occasional modern seeds within the flots which suggests that there is some potential for bioturbation within the features sampled.

Late Iron Age/Romano-British and Romano-British

- 7.3.2 Three Late Iron Age/Romano-British features sampled in trench 43 during the evaluation contain small quantities of charcoal. A probable emmer/spelt wheat (*Triticum* cf.

dicoccum/spelta) grain and indeterminate cereal (Triticeae) fragments are recorded in ditch 4306.

- 7.3.3 Romano-British features sampled typically produced small flots primarily composed of charcoal, with evidence for oak (*Quercus* sp.), cherries (*Prunus* sp.), willows/poplars (*Salix/Populus* sp.) and hawthorn-type (Maloideae). Ditch 70289 (slot 70004) contains low numbers of poorly preserved emmer/spelt wheat (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*) grains and glume bases, together with a probable sloe (*Prunus* cf. *spinosa*) endocarp and thorn. In comparison, pit 70085 produced a few wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains, some of which are from a free-threshing wheat (*T. aestivum/turgidum*) species, as well as hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell fragments. Pit 70117 produced a tiny flot containing a few scraps of oak charcoal and an indeterminate cereal (Triticeae) grain.

Medieval

- 7.3.4 Medieval gully 70238 contains a moderate quantity of charcoal, comprising oak (*Quercus* sp.), hazel (*Corylus avellana*), and hawthorn-type (Maloideae). Cereal grains are common, and these primarily derive from free-threshing wheat (*T. aestivum/turgidum*) and oats (*Avena* sp.), alongside smaller quantities of rye (*Secale cereale*) and barley (*Hordeum vulgare*). Wild taxa include a few seeds of vetches/wild peas (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.) and grasses (Poaceae), together with hazel nutshell fragments.
- 7.3.5 The sample from medieval ditch 70294 (slot 70260) produced a charcoal-rich flot, predominantly consisting of mature oak stemwood/branchwood, together with some hawthorn-type, alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and plum/blackthorn (*Prunus domestica/spinosa*).
- 7.3.6 Medieval pit 70248 and hearth 70268 produced very small flots with similar compositions. This includes small quantities of charcoal, with evidence for oak, willows/poplars and alder. Charred plant remains include indeterminate cereal grain fragments, oats, grasses and vetches/wild peas.
- 7.3.7 Medieval features sampled during the evaluation are variable in composition. Ditch 4308 produced a small quantity of charcoal, whereas pit 4324 contains a particularly large quantity of charcoal, alongside low numbers of probable free-threshing wheat grains, hazel nutshell fragments, and an acorn (*Quercus* sp.) cotyledon.

Undated

- 7.3.8 One sample from undated pit 70027 is very rich in oak stemwood/branchwood charcoal, with many of the fragments displaying weak ring curvature and tyloses which indicates the present of mature branchwood/stemwood. The charcoal is good condition, with only a slight mineral-coating. No charred plant remains are recorded within subsample assessed.
- 7.3.9 Ditch 4311 sampled during the evaluation in Trench 43 is similarly rich in charcoal and contains no charred plant remains. In comparison, ditch 3514 in trench 35 produced a very small flot composed solely of charcoal.

7.4 Discussion

- 7.4.1 The Late Iron Age/Romano-British and Romano-British samples are likely to reflect domestic fuel debris, mixed together small quantities of material generated through crop-processing. Evidence for hulled wheat grains and chaff, from either emmer wheat or spelt wheat, in ditch 70004 and ditch 4306 is consistent with a later prehistoric/Romano-British settlement in this area (Fulford 2014; Lambrick 2014). In comparison, a few free-threshing wheat grains in pit 70085 are likely to be later intrusive contaminants since this crop is more

commonly associated with post-Roman periods, although it does occur in some Romano-British sites (see below).

- 7.4.2 The medieval features sampled contain evidence associated with a range of settlement activities, including industrial/craft processes (eg, metal-working), crop-processing and general background occupation 'noise'. The plant remains recovered from gully 70238 reflect a typical medieval crop assemblage, with evidence for free-threshing wheat, oats, barley, and rye (Moffett 2006). Further evidence for oats or possible oats in pit 70248 and hearth 70268 probably reflects background medieval settlement 'noise', although oat grains cannot be securely identified to species these could derive from a cultivated species (eg, *A. sativa*, *A. strigosa*) or wild species (eg, *A. fatua*). The charcoal assemblage recovered from these samples contains a mixture of species, possibly indicating that this material reflects domestic fuel debris. However, the evidence recovered from gully 70238 may bear a relationship to the large dump of pottery within this feature, which could be clarified through further analysis. In comparison, a charcoal-rich deposit in ditch 70294 (slot 70260) is probably linked to industrial or craft activity considering the dominance of oak within the sample.
- 7.4.3 Medieval pit 4324, sampled during the evaluation, can be identified as the base of a charcoal production pit/clamp kiln. This feature is closely comparable to undated pit 70027; both features are discussed together below and could be of the same date. The identification of these features as charcoal production pits is based on their circular shape, shallow depth, evidence for heat-scorched edges and their charcoal-rich fills. Identification of charcoal fragments from pit 70027 indicates that this feature is dominated by oak. Closely comparable features have been identified in other areas of the site (Wessex Archaeology 2019a). Similarly, at nearby Eversley Quarry, two distinct phases of charcoal production were identified, the first phase dating to the Early or Middle Iron Age which was associated with iron-smelting activity, whereas the second phase was dated to the medieval (11th-13th century) period (Hardy and Young 2019). Charcoal pit kilns were probably located within, or close to woodlands, and the method of production involved placing the wood in a circular stack which was in turn sealed with small branches (or a similar material such as bracken) and earth/turf to restrict the supply of oxygen (Bond 2007). Charcoal was a valuable fuel source widely used for metalworking (eg iron smelting, smithing), as well as other craft industries (eg, glass production) and cooking (Bond 2007). The presence of iron slag in several features across the site hints metalworking activity within the area.
- 7.4.4 The number of known charcoal production pits or clamp kilns has increased significantly in recent years, with circular/sub-circular examples such as this typically dating between the c.6/7th-13th centuries AD (eg, Challinor 2011; Druce 2019; López-Dóriga and Treasure forthcoming; Webley 2007); although the example from Eversley Quarry suggests the similar technology may have been used to produce charcoal in the Iron Age (Hardy and Young 2019). Iron Age and Romano-British charcoal production sites are effectively unknown, with the few identified examples using above ground platforms, as opposed to a circular pit (cf. King 2017; Andrews *et al.* 2019). In comparison, charcoal production in the later medieval period appears to have been undertaken on a larger-scale, also with the use of mounds or domes of wood constructed on above-ground platforms (Bond 2007).

8 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

8.1 Stratigraphic potential

- 8.1.1 The excavation successfully demonstrated that the extent of the Romano-British activity was confined to the northern part of the excavation area, it is probable that further evidence

for Romano-British activity and possibly occupation survives in an unexcavated area to the north.

- 8.1.2 Although the aims of the excavation stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020) was to investigate the extent of the Romano-British activity and occupation, the excavation revealed a medieval industrial area, with a hearth base, enclosure and compacted spread of material. It appears as though many of these features have been truncated by the subsequent agricultural activity on the Site.
- 8.1.3 The stratigraphic potential for the excavation area lies in understanding the medieval and post-medieval features in the central and southern portion of the excavation area. As further Parcels are excavated there will be greater potential to interpret the results from this excavation within a wider landscape context and to assess and interpret the phases of activity across the Site.
- 8.1.4 Further analysis and comparison with similar excavations at Newbury Bypass (Birbeck 2000) and, more recently, at Binfield (Ford 2021) may aid the interpretation of the area of industrial activity in the central portion of the excavation area.

8.2 Finds potential

- 8.2.1 The finds assemblage from the Parcel 7 area is of moderate size and includes several elements of interest. The Romano-British assemblage has been provisionally dated to the later 1st century AD which places it in that interesting transitional period between handmade wares of indigenous Iron Age origin and 'Romanised' wheelthrown wares. There are other comparable assemblages in the area, for example from Silchester and from Park Farm, Binfield, which produced an assemblage of very similar character although with a longer date range extending back into the Middle Iron Age (Booth 1995). Further analysis may allow the date range to be refined slightly, and for any internal sequence to be determined.
- 8.2.2 Some limited further functional evidence for the Romano-British period is offered by the ceramic objects and quernstone fragments, but the best evidence for activity comes in the form of iron smelting slag, although this is likely to be entirely redeposited as no evidence for *in situ* metalworking was recovered.
- 8.2.3 The medieval pottery assemblage is also significant. The medieval ceramic sequence for this area is not particularly well defined. There are large published assemblages from Reading (eg Underwood 1997; Underwood-Keevil 2005), but the use of separate type series has masked similarities. The town appears to have received wares from the east (Camley Gardens kilns at Maidenhead), the south-east (Surrey whitewares), possibly from the north (Oxfordshire-type wares), and the west (Kennet Valley wares), with some wares undoubtedly more locally produced. While some of these types can be recognised in the hinterland, there is less clarity, and the likelihood is that most wares were locally produced, from locations as yet undiscovered. The Parcel 7 assemblage has a general homogeneity with a predominance of a single type which argues for at least relatively local manufacture; there are similarities with the early products of the Surrey/Hampshire whiteware industry, but with distinctive variations. It may even be very local, as possible evidence for pottery production waste was recovered, and although this is still ambiguous there is comparable (and stronger) evidence of the production of very similar wares at Binfield, about 11 km to the north-east. The largest deposit, which was concentrated in ditch 70295, bears a strong similarity to features found at Binfield, but also on one of the medieval kiln sites excavated on the route of the Newbury Bypass (Birbeck 2000, plate 4). Again, further analysis (possibly accompanied by radiocarbon dating if suitable material is identified) should enable some refinement of the dating, and further discussion of the affinities of the assemblage. The

possibilities of on-site pottery manufacture can also be further explored in the context of the evidence from Binfield, along with that for ceramic tile manufacture. A combination of pottery and tile manufacture on the same site is paralleled again on the Newbury Bypass pottery kiln site, where quantities of underfired tile was dumped (Birbeck 2000, plate 3), as seems to be the case here. This aspect of the pottery assemblage can address one of the research questions from the regional research agenda:

- 16.14.3 *The location of the more persistent and temporary production sites for pottery [should be sought] (Munby 2014, 260)*

- 8.2.4 The small assemblage of animal bones offers little potential for further analysis. The identified bones have been recorded to a sufficient level and the available information is outlined above.

8.3 Environmental potential

Charred plant remains

- 8.3.1 Most of the samples contain either no plant remains or too few plant remains to warrant further analysis. An exception to this is the sample from medieval gully 70238 which produced a comparatively large number of cereals and wild taxa. Quantification and recording of the plant remains would make the data available for future syntheses. Further work on the plant remains would be complemented by charcoal analysis (see below) to build a more complete picture of medieval land use practices in the local area.

Charcoal

- 8.3.2 There is some potential for further analysis of charcoal from a range of the Late Iron Age/Romano-British and Romano-British features, however, this is hampered by the lack of clear relationship between this material and an associated settlement context or particular process (eg, charcoal production, industrial/craft processes).
- 8.3.3 In comparison, there is high potential for analysis of the medieval (and assumed medieval) charcoal assemblage. Detailed analysis of charcoal production pits 4324 and 70027 would provide information on technological practice, including the size and type of wood used, range of species present and to identify if forms of woodland management were undertaken. Since such features are likely to have been situated within or close to woodlands, they can also be used to investigate the location and extent of formerly wooded areas. Radiocarbon dating of short-lived charcoal fragments or plant remains is required to confirm the date of these features. Understanding the morphology and dating of charcoal production pits in greater detail would be of value for future syntheses.
- 8.3.4 To complete the picture of woodland exploitation at the site during the medieval period, further analysis of samples from ditch 70294 (slot 70260) and gully 70238 would be beneficial. Analysis of these samples would provide additional information on the nature of the local environment, including the degree of openness within the landscape.

8.4 Summary of potential

- 8.4.1 This excavation has highlighted a number of phases of use within the area and includes a range of features, artefacts and ecofacts that have the potential to contribute to the understanding of the land use from the pre-historic periods right through to the post-medieval periods, with a focus on the indications of industrial activity in the medieval period.
- 8.4.2 The presence of a worked flint blade, which may date from the Upper Palaeolithic or Mesolithic period, is a rare find in the Blackwater Valley and one which merits further

investigation, with the potential to compare with the Mesolithic flint scatter from the nearby excavations at Eversley.

- 8.4.3 Although the excavation failed to find conclusive evidence for settlement in the Romano-British period the potential for further research lies within understanding the results from this excavation within the wider context of the Hogwood Farm development.
- 8.4.4 The greatest potential for this excavation lies within understanding the industrial activities which were undertaken in vicinity. By combining the artefactual and environmental evidence within a clarified stratigraphic understanding the potential is to understand the types of industry, within a refined chronology. Comparisons with anomalous sites including Newbury Bypass, Eversley and Binfield can be sought. Within the preceding evaluation, there was limited evidence for industrial activity within the Site.

9 SUBSEQUENT WORKS AND UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

- 9.1.1 It is proposed to produce and overarching updated project design (UPD) detailing all archaeological element of the wider scheme, once the ongoing works have been completed. Consequently, a UPD will not be set out in this document. However, the assessment of potential and recommendations set out above will be incorporated into the forthcoming UPD and publication proposal.

9.2 Stratigraphic evidence – recommendations for analysis

- 9.2.1 Further analysis of the stratigraphic evidence should be completed once the remaining proposed fieldwork is completed to enable this excavation area to be understood within the wider landscape context.

9.3 Finds evidence – recommendations for analysis

Pottery

- 9.3.1 The Romano-British and medieval pottery should be subjected to detailed fabric and form analysis, following the standard Wessex Archaeology methodology (Morris 1994) which accords with the 'detailed record' advocated by national standards with the aim of providing as much information as possible about an assemblage, and resulting in a comparable dataset (Barclay *et al* 2016, section 2.4.6). The results of analysis should be presented, describing the range of types present with supporting tabulated data, and the assemblage discussed by chronological group (Romano-British and medieval), in terms of chronology (bringing in any evidence from radiocarbon dating), patterns of production and distribution, and any socio-economic implications for the site. The evidence for medieval pottery production should be discussed, and comparison made with fabric samples from Binfield in order to assess the affinities with that production site.

Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

- 9.3.2 No further analysis is considered to be necessary for the CBM, but the medieval assemblage should be further discussed in order to explore the evidence for tile production in the context of the known patterns of roof-tile production at this period (eg. Hare 1991) and the evidence for tile production elsewhere in the area (eg. Birbeck 2000).

Other Finds

- 9.3.3 No further analytical work is required on the other finds, but the assessment results can be summarised for publication.

9.4 Environmental evidence – recommendations for analysis

Plant remains

- 9.4.1 The sample proposed for analysis is listed with a 'P' in Appendix 1, Table 6. All identifiable charred plant remains will be extracted from the flot. The analysis will involve full quantification (Antolín and Buxó 2011; Antolín and Jacomet 2015) and taphonomic assessment. The identifications will be undertaken using a stereomicroscope at up to x40 magnification, and through comparison with Wessex Archaeology's plant reference collection and specialised literature where appropriate. Plant nomenclature will follow Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary *et al.* (2012), for cereals and other cultivated plants (using traditional names).

Charcoal

- 9.4.2 The samples proposed for charcoal analysis are indicated with a 'C1' (rapid analysis) and 'C2' (detailed analysis) in the analysis column in Appendix 1, Table 6. Analysis will be undertaken in two stages to maximise the information available. The first stage will involve 'rapid' analysis to provide data on the range of species of present, identifying 25-50 fragments per context/sample. The second stage will involve 'detailed' analysis of up to 100 charcoal fragments per context/sample (or 100% where there are <100 fragments). Identification will focus on fragments in the ≥ 4 mm fractions, with scanning of the 2–4mm fractions to identify wood from small shrubs and twiggy material (Asouti and Austin 2005). The transverse (TS), tangential longitudinal (TLS) and radial longitudinal (RLS) sections will be examined up to x400 magnification using a Kyowa ME-LUX2 microscope. Identifications will be assisted by the descriptions of Gale and Cutler (2000), Hather (2000) and Schweingruber (1990), together with modern reference material held by Wessex Archaeology. Other features will be recorded following Marguerie and Hunot (2007), including growth-ring curvature and the presence/absence of bark, pith, tyloses and reaction wood alongside others (eg, insect degradation, fungal hyphae, vitrification, radial cracking, woodworking marks). Plant nomenclature will follow Stace (1997).

9.5 Scientific dating

- 9.5.1 A total of two samples of short-lived wood charcoal fragments will be submitted from pits 4324 and 70027 for radiocarbon dating. The samples will be submitted to the 14CHRONO Centre, Queen's University, Belfast. It is anticipated that the features are medieval, however, there should be a contingency for a further two radiocarbon dates if these features return unexpectedly early dates (eg, Iron Age, Romano-British).
- 9.5.2 Reporting of the radiocarbon dating results will follow international conventions (Bayliss 2015; Millard 2014). All results will be reported as follows: uncalibrated years before present (BP), laboratory code and calibrated date range (cal BC/AD). Dates are calibrated with OxCal 4.4 (Bronk-Ramsey 2009) using the IntCal20 curve (Reimer *et al.* 2020). Calibrated dates are reported at 95.4% probability, with end points rounded out to the nearest 10 years. Any modelled dates will be given in italics (Bayliss 2015) and the models used will be given in the text or in each figure's footnotes. The reliability of association between the radiocarbon date and the event which is aimed to be dated will be assessed following Waterbolk (1971).

10 STORAGE AND CURATION

10.1 Museum

- 10.1.1 The archive resulting from the watching brief is currently held in the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. The site falls within an area where there is currently no collecting

museum. Every effort will be made to identify a suitable repository for the archive resulting from the fieldwork, and if this is not possible, Wessex Archaeology will initiate discussions with the local planning authority in an attempt to resolve the issue. If no suitable repository is identified, Wessex Archaeology will continue to store the archive, but may institute a charge to the client for ongoing storage beyond a set period.

10.2 Preparation of the archive

Physical archive

10.2.1 The physical archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts and ecofacts, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011).

10.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the **site code**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:

- 7 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type
- 2 files/document cases of paper records and A3/A4 graphics
- 1 A1 graphic

Digital archive

10.2.3 The digital archive generated by the project, which comprises born-digital data (eg site records, survey data, databases and spreadsheets, photographs and reports), will be deposited with a Trusted Digital Repository, in this instance the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), to ensure its long-term curation. Digital data will be prepared following ADS guidelines (ADS 2013 and online guidance) and accompanied by metadata. Full details of the collection, processing and documentation of digital data are given in the project Digital Management Plan (available on request).

10.3 Selection strategy

10.3.1 It is widely accepted that not all the records and materials (artefacts and ecofacts) collected or created during the course of an archaeological project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials will be subject to selection in order to establish what will be retained for long-term curation, with the aim of ensuring that all elements selected to be retained are appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities, ie the retained archive should fulfil the requirements of both future researchers and the receiving Museum.

10.3.2 The selection strategy, which details the project-specific selection process, is underpinned by national guidelines on selection and retention (Brown 2011, section 4) and generic selection policies (SMA 1993) and follows ClfA's *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives*. It should be agreed by all stakeholders (Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists, local authority, museum) and fully documented in the project archive.

10.3.3 Detailed selection proposals for the project archive from the Parcel 7 mitigation, comprising finds, environmental material and site records (analogue and digital), are made in the site-specific Selection Strategy (Appendix 2). The proposals are summarised below.

Finds

10.3.4 The assemblage is of moderate size and contains several elements of particular interest.

- *Animal bone (154 frags)*: small assemblage, mostly from post-medieval contexts, no further potential, limited intrinsic value. Retain none.
- *Burnt (unworked) flint (144 pieces)*: material type intrinsically undatable; limited archaeological significance; already discarded.
- *Ceramic building material (162,733 g)*: large assemblage but repetitive (almost all comprises medieval roof tile); archaeological significance due to possible evidence for tile production but limited further research value. Large proportion already discarded on site. Retain representative sample of roof tile only (max 1% of original total weight).
- *Fired clay (168 frags)*: includes portable objects as well as possible structural material. Objects are of functional significance and intrinsic interest; retain all. Possible structural material is undiagnostic and of uncertain date; limited archaeological significance and no further research potential; retain none
- *Glass (1 frag)*: single fragment, post-medieval. Very limited archaeological significance (chronological indicator only) and no further research potential. Do not retain.
- *Marine shell (42 frags)*: negligible quantity, all from one feature but far too few for any kind of statistical analysis. Limited archaeological significance; no further research potential. Retain none
- *Metalwork (23 objects)*: small assemblage; one modern objects plus iron objects in poor, corroded condition, mainly nails which are undated. Little or no archaeological significance; no further research potential. Retain none.
- *Metalworking residues (17,548 g)*: relatively large quantity recovered, but repetitive, invariable condition and largely residual. Little or no further research potential. Retain small representative sample from pit 70224 only.
- *Pottery (1756 sherds)*: assemblage of moderate size, roughly equally divided between Romano-British and medieval. Both groups include material in relatively good condition, and medieval group includes possible pottery production waste. Archaeologically significant and with considerable further research potential; retain all.
- *Stone (1 object)*: one quernstone fragment; intrinsic value; retain.
- *Worked flint (8 pieces)*: a small quantity of worked flint was recovered, consisting mainly of undiagnostic flakes and cores. The blade is incredibly rare; retain.

Environmental material

10.3.5 Some of the material retrieved from environmental samples merits retention with the site archive for future access. A summary of proposals for a Site-Specific Selection Strategy can be found in (Appendix 1, Table 6).

- 10.3.6 There is further potential for analysis of charcoal within several samples Late Iron Age/Romano-British and Romano-British, potentially as part of a wider scheme of investigation at the site and these should be retained. Samples containing material which could be suitable candidates for radiocarbon dating should also be retained. These are outlined on a case-by-case basis in Appendix 1, Table 6.
- 10.3.7 Unsorted residues from assessed samples not proposed for further analysis will not be retained. Assessed flots with no extracted materials and only trace quantities of charcoal are considered to be devoid of any significant environmental evidence and may be discarded. All analysed materials will be retained.

Documentary records

- 10.3.8 Paper records comprise site registers (other pro-forma site records are digital), drawings and reports (Written Scheme of Investigation, client report). All will be retained and deposited with the project archive.

Digital data

- 10.3.9 The digital data comprise site records (tablet-recorded on site) in spreadsheet format; finds records in spreadsheet format; survey data; photographs; reports. All will be deposited, although site photographs will be subject to selection to eliminate poor quality and duplicated images, and any others not considered directly relevant to the archaeology of the site.

10.4 Security copy

- 10.4.1 In line with current best practice (eg, Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

10.5 OASIS

- 10.5.1 An OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (<http://oasis.ac.uk>) has been initiated, with key fields completed (Appendix 3). A .pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by the Principal Archaeologist for Berkshire Archaeology on behalf of the LPA. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) ArchSearch catalogue.

11 COPYRIGHT

11.1 Archive and report copyright

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Environmental Data

Table 5 Assessment of the environmental evidence

Area	Phase	Feature Type	Feature	Context	Group	Sample Code	Sample vol. (l)	Flot vol. (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal >2mm (ml)	Charcoal	Preservation
TR43	LIA/RB	Ditch	4306	4307	-	T24194_4301	39	35	10%, C	B	-	<i>Triticum cf. dicoccum/spelta</i> , Triticeae	-	-	20	-	Poor, mineral-coating
TR43	LIA/RB	Ditch	4306	4308	-	T24194_4302	8	10	70%, C	-	-	-	-	-	<1	-	-
TR43	LIA/RB	Pit	4304	4305	-	T24194_4303	10	10	40%, C	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	Mineral-coating
-	RB	Ditch	70004	70006	70289	212962_7001	38	30	10%, C	B	C	<i>Triticum dicoccum/spelta</i> (grain, glume bases), Triticeae (grain frag.)	C	<i>Prunus cf. spinosa</i> endocarp	20	<i>Quercus</i> sp. mature stw/brw (tyloses), <i>Prunus</i> sp. (+ <i>Prunus</i> tp. thorn), Saliaceae	Poor



Area	Phase	Feature Type	Feature	Context	Group	Sample Code	Sample vol. (l)	Flot vol. (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal >2mm (ml)	Charcoal	Preservation
-	RB	Pit	70085	70087	-	212962_7003	8	70	5%	C	-	<i>Triticum</i> sp., <i>T. aestivum/turgidum</i>	C	<i>Corylus avellana</i> nutshell	50	<i>Quercus</i> sp. mature stw/brw (tyloses), cf. <i>Maloideae</i> (tiny fragments)	Good
-	RB	Pit	70117	70118	-	212962_7004	10	10	10%, C	C	-	Triticeae	-	-	1	<i>Quercus</i> sp. mature stw/brw (tyloses)	Poor
-	RB	Pit	70143	70145	-	212962_7005	9	60	5%	-	-	-	-	-	50	<i>Prunus</i> sp. rw (inc. small diameter, with bark/pith), cf. <i>Maloideae</i> , <i>Quercus</i> sp. stw/brw	Moderate, mineral-coating on charcoal
-	Med	Gully	70238	70240	-	212962_7006	43	150	25%	A*	-	<i>Triticum aestivum/turgidum</i> , <i>Avena</i> sp. (small + large), <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> , <i>Secale cereale</i>	A	<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp., <i>Poaceae</i> , <i>Corylus avellana</i> nutshell	80	<i>Quercus</i> sp. stw, <i>Corylus avellana</i> , <i>Maloideae</i>	Good
-	Med	Pit	70248	70249	-	212962_7007	24	15	50%, A	C	-	Triticeae (grain frags.), cf. <i>Avena</i> sp.	-	-	5	<i>Quercus</i> sp. stw/brw, <i>Salicaceae</i> , <i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Moderate, mineral-coating on charcoal
-	Med	Hearth	70268	70269	-	212962_7008	10	10	50%, B	C	-	Triticeae (frag.), <i>Avena</i> sp.	C	<i>Poaceae</i> (large-seeded), <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp.	2	<i>Quercus</i> sp. stw/brw, <i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Poor



Area	Phase	Feature Type	Feature	Context	Group	Sample Code	Sample vol. (l)	Flot vol. (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal >2mm (ml)	Charcoal	Preservation
-	Med	Ditch	70260	70263	70294	212962_7009	41	300	5%	-	-	-	-	-	200	<i>Quercus</i> sp. mature stw/brw (tyloses) dominant, Maloideae rw, <i>Prunus domestica/spinosa</i> , <i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Moderate, mineral-coating on charcoal
TR43	Med	Pit	4324	4325	-	T24194_2	37	900	5%, B, E, I	C	-	<i>Triticum</i> cf. <i>aestivum/turgidum</i>	C	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell fragments, <i>Quercus</i> sp. half cotyledon	500	-	Good
TR43	Med	Ditch	4338	4335	-	T24194_3	10	60	<1%, E	-	-	-	-	-	30	-	Mineral coating
TR43	Med/Post-med?	Ditch	4311	4313	-	T24194_1	40	400	<1%, B	-	-	-	-	-	250	-	Mineral-coating
TR35	Undated	Ditch	3514	3515	-	T24194_3501	40	20	60%, A, E	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	Mineral-coating
-	Undated	Pit	70027	70029	-	212962_7002	32	900	5%	-	-	-	-	-	500	<i>Quercus</i> sp. mature stemwood/branchwood (tyloses) dominant, few small twigs + bark frags.	Good, some mineral-coating on charcoal

Key: Scale of abundance: A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30–99, A = 30–10, B = 9–5, C = <5; Bioturbation proxies: Roots (%), Uncharred seeds (abundance)



Table 6 Environmental evidence: analysis potential and recommendations

Phase	Feature Type	Feature	Context	Group	Sample Code	Analysis potential	Analysis recommendations	C14
Late Iron Age/ Romano-British	Ditch	4306	4307	-	T24194_4301	-	-	-
Late Iron Age/ Romano-British	Ditch	4306	4308	-	T24194_4302	-	-	-
Late Iron Age/ Romano-British	Pit	4304	4305	-	T24194_4303	-	-	-
Romano-British	Ditch	70004	70006	70289	212962_7001	P	-	-
Romano-British	Pit	70085	70087	-	212962_7003	C	-	-
Romano-British	Pit	70117	70118	-	212962_7004	-	-	-
Romano-British	Pit	70143	70145	-	212962_7005	C	-	-
Medieval	Gully	70238	70240	-	212962_7006	P, C1	P, C1	-
Medieval	Pit	70248	70249	-	212962_7007	-	-	-
Medieval	Hearth	70268	70269	-	212962_7008	-	-	-
Medieval	Ditch	70260	70263	70294	212962_7009	C2	C2	-
Medieval	Pit	4324	4325	-	T24194_2	C1	C1	C14, to support charcoal analysis
Medieval	Ditch	4338	4335	-	T24194_3	C	-	-
Medieval/Post-med?	Ditch	4311	4313	-	T24194_1	-	-	-
Undated	Pit	70027	70029	-	212962_7002	C2	C2	C14, to support charcoal analysis
Undated	Ditch	3514	3515	-	T24194_3501	-	-	-



Appendix 2 Selection Strategy

212962
Hogwood Farm, Finchampstead
 version 1, December 2021

Selection Strategy

Project Information

Project Management

Project Manager	Gareth Chaffey	
Archaeological Archive Manager	Lorraine Mephram	
Organisation	Wessex Archaeology (WA)	
Stakeholders		Date Contacted
Collecting Institution(s)	NO COLLECTING MUSEUM Archaeology Data Service	
Project Lead / Project Assurance	Lead: Rachel Williams Assurance: Gareth Chaffey	N/A
Landowner / Developer	CALA Homes	
Other (external)	Fiona Macdonald, Principal Archaeologist, Berkshire Archaeology	
Other (internal)	WA Finds Manager (Rachael Seager Smith) WA Environmental Manager (Sander Aerts) WA Geomatics & BIM Manager (Chris Breeden) WA internal finds & environmental specialists (see WSI)	N/A; briefed as part of standard project process

Resources

Resources required	WA Finds and Environmental specialists; WA archives team
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Context

This overarching selection strategy document is based on the ClfA Archives Selection Toolkit (2019) and relates to archaeological project work being undertaken by Wessex Archaeology in the Phase 7 mitigation area, as defined in the WSIs. It has been generated at the assessment stage; no earlier

on-site collection strategy was prepared. This document should ultimately be reviewed in the light of all other work undertaken on the Hogwood Farm development area.

Relevant standards, policies and guidelines consulted include:

General

- *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections* (Society of Museum Archaeologists, 1993)
- *Archaeological archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (AAF, revised edition 2011, section 4)

Relevant research agendas

- Hey, G and Hind, J (eds) 2014 *Solent-Thames Research Framework for the Historic Environment Resource Assessments and Research Agendas*. Oxford Wessex Archaeol Monogr 6

Finds

- *Standard Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation & research of archaeological materials* (CIFA, 2014)
- *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* (Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group, Study Group for Roman Pottery, Medieval Pottery Research Group 2016)

Environmental

- *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory, Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011)
- *Geoarchaeology: Using Earth Sciences to Understand the Archaeological Record* (Historic England 2015)
- *Guidelines for the Curation of Waterlogged Macroscopic Plant and Invertebrate Remains* (English Heritage 2008)

Research objectives of the project

Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site and the regional research framework, the research objectives of the excavation were to:

- Define the extent, nature and date of Roman occupation/settlement;
- Define the extent, nature, date and where possible the relationship and function of the features present within the excavation area, especially in the vicinity of evaluation trenches 35, 43 and 169.

REVIEW POINTS

Consultation with all Stakeholders regarding project-specific selection decisions will be undertaken at a maximum of two project review points:

- End of data gathering (assessment stage)
- Archive compilation

1 – Digital Data

Stakeholders

WA Project Manager; WA Archives Manager; WA Geomatics & BIM Manager; Berkshire Archaeology Principal Archaeologist; ADS

Selection

Location of Data Management Plan (DMP)

This document is designed to link to the project Data Management Plan (DMP), which can be supplied on request.

To promote long-term future reuse deposition file formats will be of archival standard, open source and accessible in nature following national guidance from ADS 2013, ClfA 2014c and the requirements of the digital repository.

Any sensitive data to be handled according to Wessex Archaeology data policy to ensure it is stored and transferred securely. The identity of individuals will be protected in line with GDPR. If required, data will be anonymised and redacted. Selection and retention of sensitive data for archival purposes will occur in consultation with the client and relevant stakeholders. Confidential data will not be selected for archiving and will be handled as per contractual obligation.

Document type	Selection Strategy	Review Points
Site records	Most records will be completed digitally on site (with the exception of registers). All will be selected for deposition.	2
Reports	To include WSIs, Interim reports, post-excavation assessment reports, publication reports. Final versions only will be selected for deposition.	1, 2
Specialist reports	Specialist reports will generally be incorporated in other documents with only minimal editing (reformatting, etc), and will be selected only if the original differs significantly from the incorporated version.	1, 2
Photographic media (site recording)	Substandard and duplicate images will be eliminated; pre-excavation images may not be selected where duplicated by post-excavation shots; working shots will be very rigorously selected to include only good quality images with potential for reuse and those integral to understanding features, their inter-relationships and location on site; site condition and reinstatement photos will not be selected.	1, 2
Photographic media (objects)	Images of individual or groups of objects, to include those of significance selected for publication and reporting. Substandard and duplicate images will be eliminated; all others will be selected.	2
Survey data	Site survey data will be used to generate CAD/GIS files for use in post-excavation activities. Shapefiles of both the original tidied survey data, and the final phased drawings will be selected.	1, 2
Databases and spreadsheets	Context, finds and environmental data in linked databases. Final versions will be selected. Any specialist data submitted separately will also be selected.	1, 2

Geophysical data	RAW data and Interpretation Geo-tiffs	1, 2
Administrative records	Includes invoices, receipts, timesheets, financial information, email correspondence. None will be selected, with the exception of any correspondence relating directly to the archaeology.	2

De-Selected Digital Data

De-selected data will be stored on WA secured servers on offsite storage locations. The WA IT department has a backup strategy and policies that involves daily, weekly and monthly and annual backups of data as stated in the DMP. This strategy is non-migratory, and original files will be held at WA under their unique project identifier, as long as they remain useful and usable in their final version format. This data may also be used for teaching or reference collections by the museum, or by WA unless otherwise required by contractual or copyright obligations.

Amendments

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

2 – Documents

Stakeholders

WA Project Manager; WA Archives Manager; Berkshire Archaeology Principal Archaeologist

Selection

A security copy of all paper/drawn records is a requirement of ClfA guidelines. This will be prepared on completion of the project, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. If the security copy is not required for deposition by Stakeholders, it will be retained on backed-up servers belonging to Wessex Archaeology.

Note that some information may be redacted to comply with GDPR legislation (personal data).

Document type	Selection Strategy	Review Points
Site records	Selected records only will be completed in hard copy on site (registers, some graphics). All will be selected for deposition.	2
Reports	Hard copies of all reports (SSWSIs, Interim reports, post-excavation assessment reports, publication reports). All will be selected for deposition, with the exception of earlier versions of reports which have been clearly superseded.	1, 2
Specialist reports & data	Specialist reports will generally be incorporated in other documents with no significant editing. Supporting data is more likely to be included in the digital archive, but if	1, 2

	supplied in hard copy and not incorporated elsewhere, this will be selected.	
Photographic media	X-radiographic plates: all will be selected.	2
Secondary sources	Hard copies of secondary sources will not be selected.	2
Working notes	Rough working notes, annotated plans, preliminary versions of matrices etc, will not be selected.	2
Administrative records	Invoices, receipts, timesheets, financial information, hard copy correspondence. None will be selected, with the exception of any hard copy correspondence relating directly to the archaeology.	2

De-Selected Documents

De-selected sensitive analogue data will be destroyed (shredded) subject to final checking by the WA Archives team with the remainder recycled. Possible exceptions include records retained for business purposes, including promotional material, teaching and internal WA library copies of reports.

Amendments

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

3 – Materials

Material type	Artefacts (bulk and registered finds)	Section 3.	3.1
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Stakeholders

WA Archives Manager; WA Finds Manager; WA internal specialists; Berkshire Archaeology Principal Archaeologist; landowner

Selection

These proposals have been prepared by Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists, and are based on data recorded during the assessment stage.

Find Type	Selection Strategy	Review Points
Animal bone (154 frags)	Small assemblage, mostly from post-medieval contexts, no further potential, limited intrinsic value. Retain none.	1, 2
Burnt (unworked) flint (144 pieces)	Material type intrinsically undatable; limited archaeological significance; already discarded.	1, 2
Ceramic building	Large assemblage but repetitive (almost all comprises	1, 2

material (162,733 g)	medieval roof tile); archaeological significance due to possible evidence for tile production but limited further research value. Large proportion already discarded on site. Retain representative sample of roof tile only (max 1% of total weight).	
Fired clay (168 frags)	Includes portable objects as well as possible structural material. Objects are of functional significance and intrinsic interest; retain all. Possible structural material is undiagnostic and of uncertain date; limited archaeological significance and no further research potential; retain none	1, 2
Glass (1 frag)	Single fragment, post-medieval. Very limited archaeological significance (chronological indicator only) and no further research potential. Do not retain.	1, 2
Marine shell (42 frags)	Negligible quantity, all from one feature but far too few for any kind of statistical analysis. Limited archaeological significance; no further research potential. Retain none	1, 2
Metalwork (23 objects)	Small assemblage; one modern object plus iron objects in poor, corroded condition, mainly nails which are undated. Little or no archaeological significance; no further research potential. Retain none.	1, 2
Metalworking residues (17,548 g)	Relatively large quantity recovered, but repetitive, invariable condition and largely residual. Little or no further research potential. Retain small representative sample from pit 70224 only.	1, 2
Pottery (1756 sherds)	Assemblage of moderate size, roughly equally divided between Romano-British and medieval. Both groups include material in relatively good condition, and medieval group includes possible pottery production waste. Archaeologically significant and with considerable further research potential; retain all.	1, 2
Stone (1 object)	One quernstone fragment; intrinsic value; retain.	1, 2
Worked flint (8 pieces)	Negligible quantity, consisting mainly of undiagnostic flakes and cores. BLADE?	1, 2

Uncollected Material

Ceramic building material from three contexts (totalling 142 kg) was weighed and discarded on site; representative samples from all three contexts were retained.

De-Selected Material

Consideration will be given to the suitability for use for handling or teaching collections by the museum or Wessex Archaeology, or whether they are of particular interest to the local community. De-selected material will either be returned to the landowner or disposed of. All will be adequately recorded to the appropriate level before de-selection.

Amendments			
Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

3 – Materials

Material type	Palaeoenvironmental material	Section 3.	3.2
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Stakeholders

WA Archives Manager; WA Environmental Manager; WA internal specialists; external specialists; Berkshire Archaeology Principal Archaeologist

Selection

All contexts suitable for environmental sampling have been be considered for sampling. All environmental sampling has been undertaken following Wessex Archaeology’s in-house guidance, which adheres to the principles outlined in Historic England’s guidance (English Heritage 2011 and Historic England 2015a) and as stated in relevant WSI.

Env Material Type	Selection Strategy	Review Points
Unprocessed samples	In the event of any samples being eliminated from processing due to lack of archaeological significance, these will not be retained.	1, 2
Unsorted residues	Residues from samples not proposed for further analysis will be de-selected, with the possible exception of any taken for the recovery of human remains.	1, 2
Assessed flots with no extracted materials	Assessed flots with no extracted materials are considered to be devoid of any significant environmental evidence and will be de-selected.	1, 2
Assessed or analysed flots with extracted materials	All analysed samples will be selected; assessed flots with extracted materials with no further research potential (to be established on a sample by sample case) may be de-selected.	1, 2
Charred & waterlogged plant remains	All extracted plant remains will be selected	1, 2
Mollusca	All extracted mollusca will be selected	1, 2
All other analysed material (eg insects, pollen)	All material will be selected	1, 2

De-Selected Material

De-selected material from samples will be disposed of after processing and post-excavation recording. All processed material will be adequately recorded to the appropriate level before de-selection.

Amendments

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders



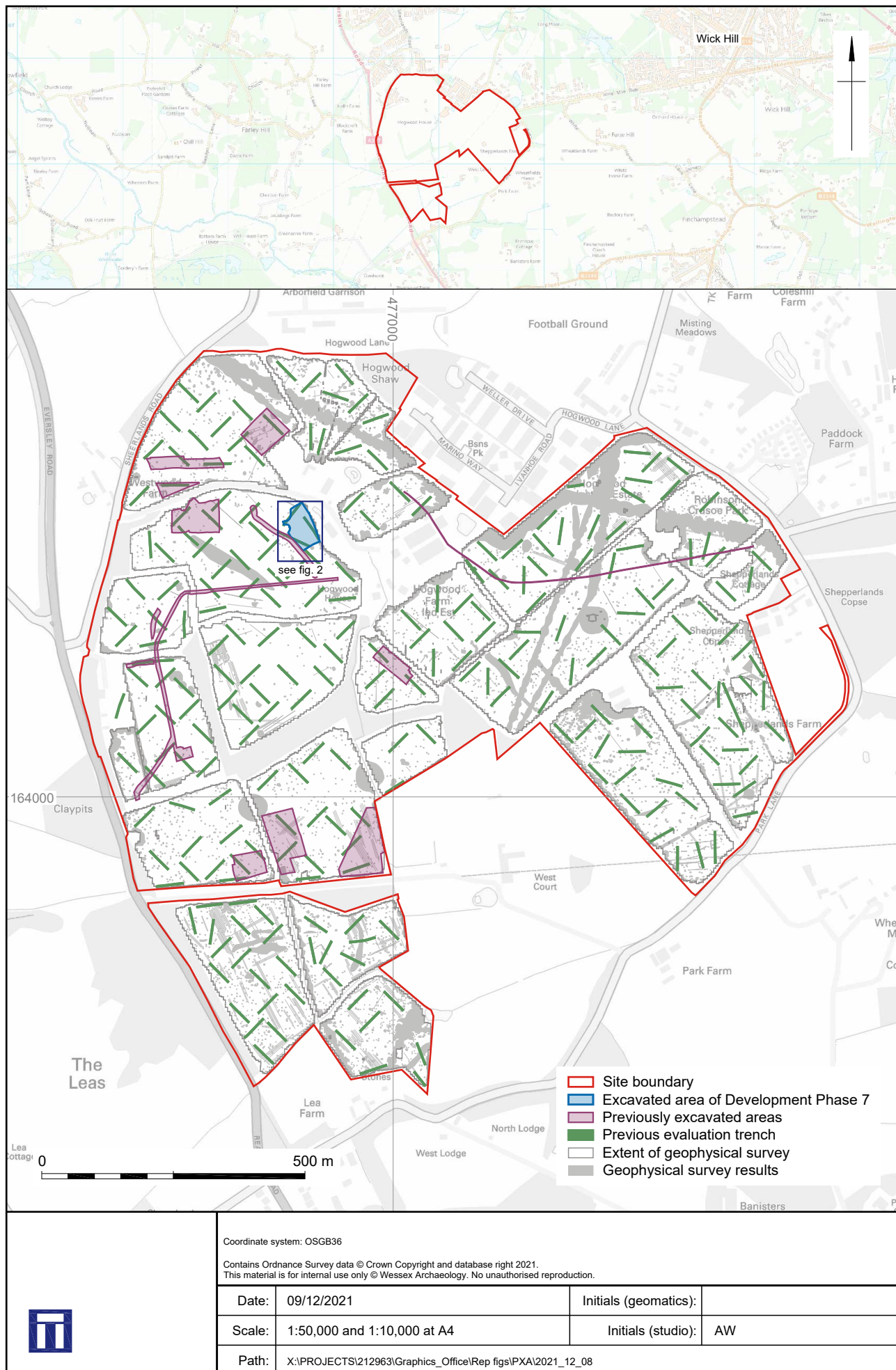
Appendix 3 OASIS record

Summary for wessexar1-503401

OASIS ID (UID)	wessexar1-503401
Project Name	Excavation, Post Excavation Assessment at Hogwood Farm - Parcel 7, Finchamstead, Berkshire
Activity type	Excavation, Post Excavation Assessment
Project Identifier(s)	212962, 212963
Planning Id	O/214/2179
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Wessex Archaeology
Project Dates	07-Jun-2021 - 23-Jul-2021
Location	Hogwood Farm - Parcel 7, Finchamstead, Berkshire NGR : SU 77036 64298 LL : 51.3725237160168, -0.894664580600763 12 Fig : 477036,164298
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Berkshire District : Wokingham Parish : Finchampstead

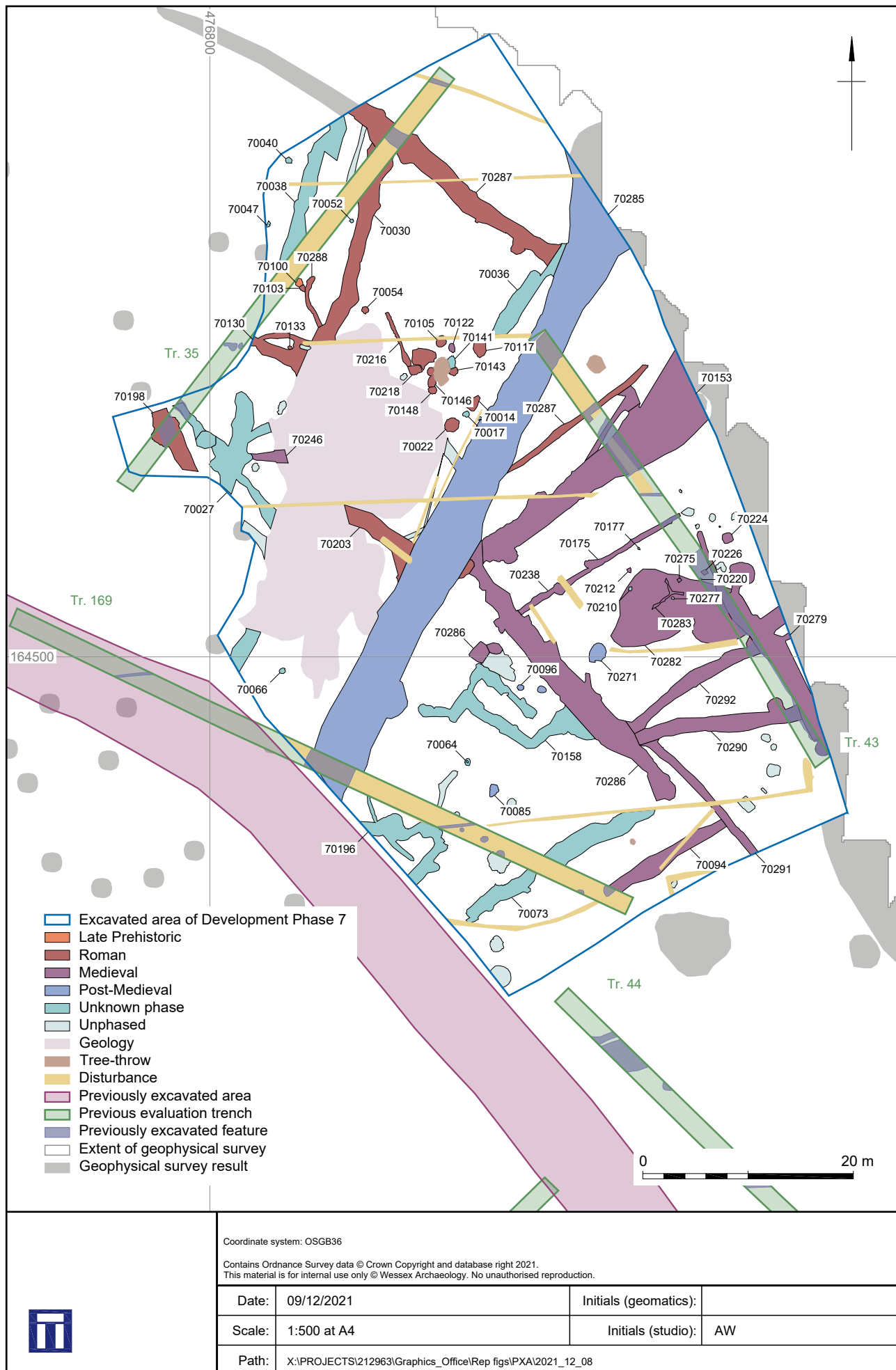
Project Methodology	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CALA Homes to conduct an archaeological excavation on Parcel 7 at the Finchwood Park development, Hogwood Farm, Finchampstead, Berkshire, RG40 4QY. The Finchwood Park development is a sizeable development covering 109 hectares centred on NGR 477135 164283 and has been divided into a series of Parcels for planning purposes, this report pertains to Phase 7. The work was carried out as a planning permission condition. Previous archaeological investigations include a desk-based assessment, geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation. Following consultation with the Principal Archaeologist at Berkshire Archaeology a 1.69 hectare excavation area within Development Phase 7, centred on NGR 477036 164298, was agreed, with the principal aims of the investigation being to define the extent of Romano-British activity within the area. The earliest dated artefact recovered during the excavation was a flint blade which may date to the Upper Palaeolithic or Mesolithic. Two main phases of activity were recorded during the excavation with ditches, gullies and pits dating from the Romano-British period dominating the northern third of the excavation area. The southern two thirds contained a possible enclosure with industrial activity from the medieval period, predominantly the 12th to 14th century, with evidence for a hearth base, a dump of pottery which may be kiln waste, slag and a compacted surface. Further evidence for possible industrial activity comes from four very shallow, circular pits which had very charcoal rich fills; these pits are anomalous with medieval charcoal production pits, although only one pit contained any datable artefacts. Other features dating to the medieval period include post-holes, pits and gullies. A very large ditch bisected the site, this feature cut all the linears that it intersected with, and is tentatively dated to the post-medieval period. The excavation has potential to further understanding on industrial activity in the area, particularly the medieval pottery and tile production activities, along with the charcoal production industry. Once all the archaeological investigations are completed an updated project design encompassing all the archaeological results will be produced, with these results incorporated in any recommendations for publication.
Project Results	
Keywords	Ditch - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ditch - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Gully - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Gully - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ditch - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ditch - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Gully - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Rubbish Pit - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Pit Cluster - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Post Hole - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Hearth - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
HER	Berkshire Archaeology HER - unRev - STANDARD
HER Identifiers	

Archives	Physical Archive, Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive Physical Archive, Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archives: no repository
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Site location

Figure 1



Phased plan of Development Phase 7

Figure 2



Plate 1: North-west facing section of ditch 70287. Scale is 1 m.



Plate 2: South-east facing section of ditch 70203. Scale is 1 m.

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Plate 3: South facing section of ditch 70198. Scale is 2 m.



Plate 4: ENE facing section of pit 70205. Scale is 1 m.

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Plate 5: South-west facing section of pits 70113 and 70117. Scales are 0.5 m.



Plate 6: North-east facing section of ditches 70150 and 70294. Scale is 1 m.

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Plate 7: Dump deposit 70240 in gully 70295, viewed from the south-west. Scales are 1 m and 0.5 m.



Plate 8: Working shot – excavation of dump deposit 70240.

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Plate 9: North-east facing section of ditch 70292. Scale 1 m.



Plate 10: East facing section of ditch 70290. Scale is 1 m.

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Plate 11: South-east facing section of ditch 70286. Scale is 1 m.



Plate 12: Hearth base 70268, viewed from the north-east. Scale is 1 m.

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Plate 13: Hearth base 70268 and pit 70250, viewed from the south-east.
Scale is 0.5 m.



Plate 14: Slot through layer 70282. Scale is 1 m.

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Plate 15: South-west facing section of ditch 70285. Scale is 2 m.



Plate 16: South-east facing section of ditch 70070. Scale is 0.5 m.

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Plate 17: North-east facing section of ditch 70158. Scale is 0.5 m.

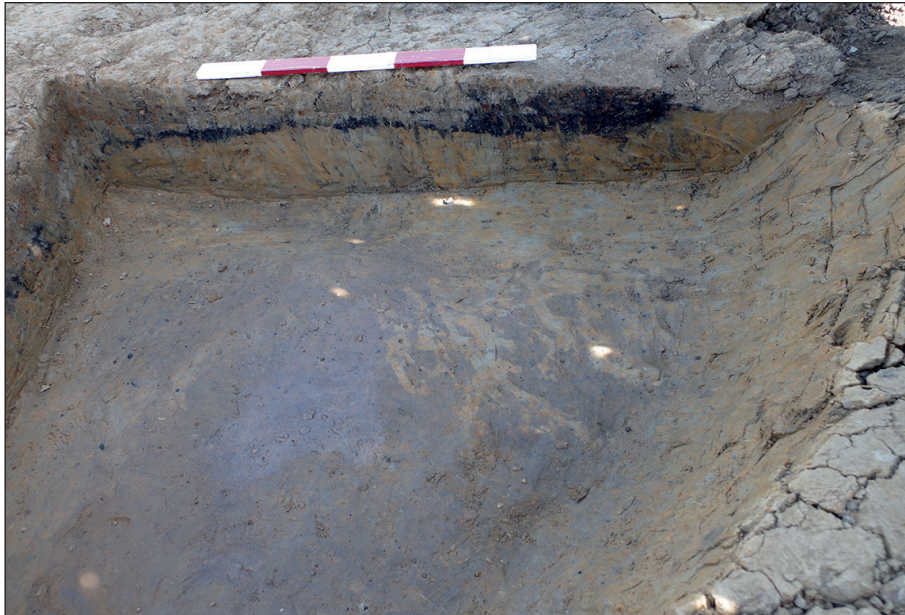


Plate 18: NNW facing section of pit 70027 and ditch 70024. Scale is 0.5 m.

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Plate 19: Working shot of pit 70027 and ditch 70296. Viewed from the north-west.



Plate 20: Pits 70017 and 70014, viewed from the south-east. Scales are 0.2 and 0.5 m.

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